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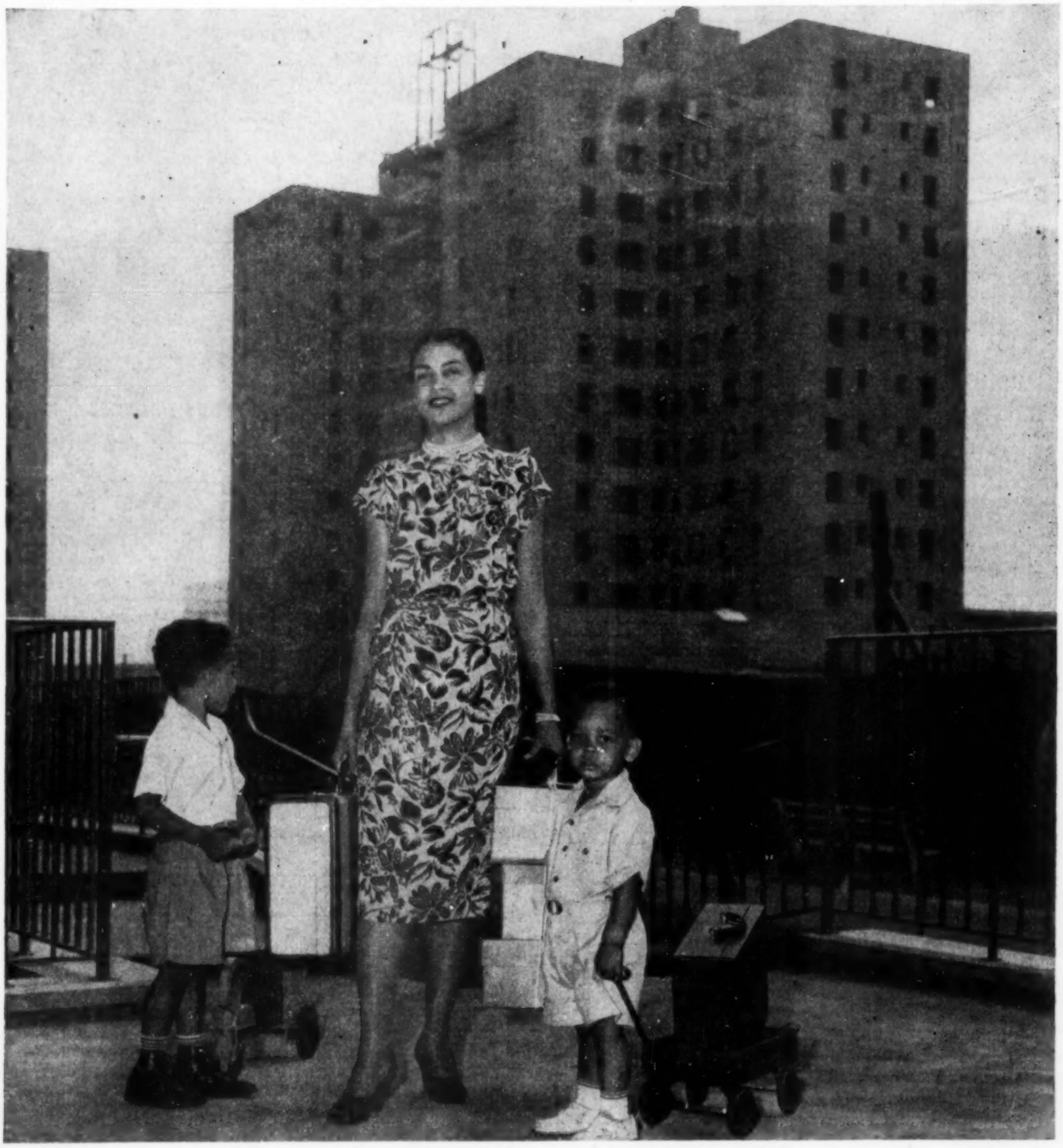

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Vol. 54, No. 10 **Whole Number 442**

IN THIS ISSUE

OCTOBER, 1947

COVER ***Page***

Mrs. Matthew Faulkner and children

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL NEWS **292-296**

EDITORIALS **297**

DREAM'S END

By W. J. Granberg **298**

THE FREEING OF INDIA

By W. E. B. DuBois **301**

NEW CURTAINS GOING UP

By John Lovell, Jr. **305**

ALONG THE NAACP BATTLEFRONT

News from the Branches and Youth Councils **308-313**

BOOK REVIEWS **313-315**

LEGAL DIRECTORY **318**

THE CRISIS was founded in 1910 and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is published monthly at 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y., by the Crisis Publishing Co., Inc., Dr. Louis T. Wright, president; Walter White, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, treasurer. The subscription price is $1.50 a year or 15 cents a copy. Foreign subscriptions $1.75. The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscription may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and three weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while THE CRISIS uses every care, it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

THE COVER—Mrs. Matthew Faulkner and her two sons, Kenneth (left), three and a half, and Ronald, two, were among the first tenants to occupy a unit of Riverton Houses at 2225 Fifth Avenue. An uncompleted unit of the project is in the background. Riverton Houses, situated between East 135th and East 138th Streets and Fifth Avenue and the Harlem River Drive, is one of the three apartment projects—the others being Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village—of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Riverton Houses has seven buildings and 1,236 apartments.

•

W. J. GRANBERG ("Dream's End," page 298) is a free lance writer and skilful amateur photographer, as his photographs illustrating this article attest. He lives in Seattle, Washingon.

•

W. E. B. DU BOIS ("The Freeing of India," page 301) finds it easy to write about India because he has been a student of colonial problems for many years, his most recent book on the subject being *Color and Democracy* (1945). Since 1944 he has been director of special research for the NAACP.

•

JOHN LOVELL, JR. ("New Curtains Going Up," page 305) teaches English at Howard university, Washington, D. C. This article is part of a series on the Negro and the theatre, the first being "Democracy in a Hit Revue," March, 1947, *Crisis*.

•

THE MAP on restrictive covenants in Detroit (page 310) has been adapted from Harold Black's "Patterns of Restrictive Covenants, 1947," which is part of his thesis for the doctorate at Wayne university, Detroit.

•

JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER (who reviews "Tomorrow's Food," page 313) thinks it high time for Americans to take a second look at their diets. Mrs. Schuyler has been a student of foods for many years and has lectured on the subject before student groups in many of our colleges. She lives in New York City.

•

ARTHUR E. BURKE (who reviews the volumes of poetry by Cullen and Dodson, page 315) teaches English at Hampton Institute, Va.

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College and School News

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JOSEPH JAMES, *concert baritone who sang on the University of Chicago's Chamber Music Series on August 13, 1947, is the first Negro artist ever to appear on one of that university's subscription concerts. To be chosen to sing on a Chamber Music Series is an important milestone in recognition for any artist. Mr. James was president of the San Francisco NAACP branch from 1943 to 1946.*

Paul F. Lawrence, who is now working toward the degree of doctor of education at Stanford university, has been appointed to the staff of the Pepsi-Cola Scholarship Board in Palo Alto, California. He assumed his new duties on September 1.

Chosen because of his specialized knowledge of the problems of Negro education, Mr. Lawrence will have charge of that part of the Pepsi-Cola scholarship program which is directly concerned with discovering Negro students of unusual ability. He will also act as a consultant on all relations of the scholarship board with Negro high-school principals, colleges, and Negro students who receive the Pepsi-Cola scholarships and college entrance awards.

Dr. David J. Jones of New York City, who has already done work at the

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Cooke County and Michael Reese hospitals in Chicago, has been awarded a grant for further study in medicine by THE DAZIAN FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.

Thirty-seven-year-old William L. Cobb, who is working for a graduate degree at the University of California, has the distinction of being the first Negro to be appointed to a principalship in a SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, public school. The appointment was made by Superintendent Dr. Herbert C. Clish.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) announces a slight increase in fees, effective as of September 1, because of the rising costs of operation. Room and board are now on a cash-in-advance basis, with meal tickets available in $7.50 and $15 denominations. The school also reports that a lack of dormitory space has appreciably reduced student enrollment this year.

THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH announces a new fifteen-week course in "The World View of the Negro" as the first of its kind to be offered by an American educational institution. The course is being given under the direction of Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick, curator of the Schomburg Collection of the 136th Street Branch of the New York Public Library, with the assistance of a group of eminent scholars among whom are Gene Weltfish, Leo Hansberry, Alain Locke, E. Franklin Frazier, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Walter White.

Aim of the course, which opened October 3, is to acquaint students with ancient and medieval African cultures, to explain the impact of Africa upon the world and the world upon Africa, and to outline the world-wide struggles of Negroes and Negroids for liberation and integration.

The inauguration of Charles Spurgeon Johnson as sixth president of FISK UNIVERSITY will take place November 7. Beginning November 6 and extending through November 8, there will be seminars on changing economic conditions in the South, education during the next ten years, international relations, and music by the Fisk University Choir.

Dr. Johnson, the first Negro president of Fisk, which was founded in 1866, succeeds Dr. Thomas E. Jones who became the university's fifth president in 1926.

H. I. Fontellio-Nanton was awarded a Ph.D. degree in journalism-sociology

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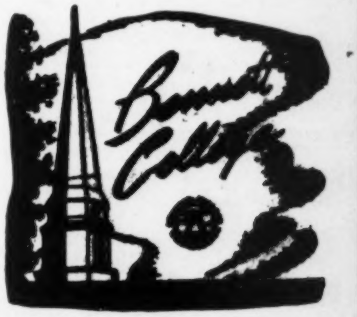

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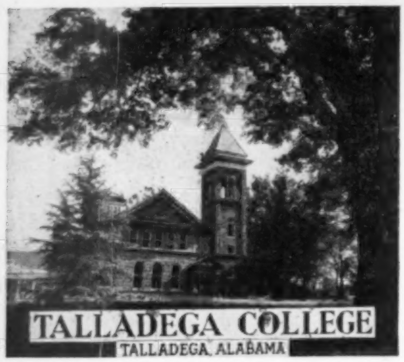

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at the June convocation of the UNIVERSITY OF IOWA. In 1946 the university faculty selected Mr. Fontellio-Nanton as the outstanding student in journalism, and he was also winner of the Sigma Delta Chi pencil club scholarship award during the same year. He is at present editor of the Negro picture magazine *Eyes.*

Ralph M. Gibson of Cleveland, Ohio, while working for his master's degree in clinical psychology at the UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN had the honor of being the first Negro to hold a teaching fellowship in psychology at the university. Mr. Gibson is now working toward his doctorate degree at Western Reserve.

Gwendolyn O. Gladden of Hampton, Va., received a M.A. degree at the 110th commencement exercises of MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University.

ALCORN A. & M. COLLEGE has announced a comprehensive plan for plant rehabilitation and new construction to cost one million dollars. Among the additions are two two-story brick dormitories, which were opened for occupancy September 8; a new agricultural engineering building costing $125,000, a new dairy barn, three new farm houses and a six-unit garage; a $40,000 addition to the trade and industries building; a new road leading from Highway 61 to Alcorn as well as the paving of all campus roads at an approximate cost of $275,000; and major repairs on the chapel, the president's home, the dining hall and dormitories.

RALPH M. GIBSON *received a M.Sc. degree in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan February 8, 1947.*

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The state legislature of Florida has appropriated $933,000 to FLORIDA A. & M. COLLEGE for operating expenses for the school year beginning July 1, 1947. This appropriation is thrice the size of any previous grant ever made the college by the legislature.

The new half-million-dollar college library and the new women's dormitory were opened for use September 1; and now under construction are two new girls' dormitories, a new dining room, a central heating plant, a 500-capacity veterans village, and temporary veterans classroom and educational facilities.

At the ATLANTA UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL convocation in August the speaker was Dr. Aaron Brown, president of Albany State College. Sixty-three graduate degrees were awarded at the exercises.

Beginning this fall all men students entering the freshman and sophomore classes at VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE are required to enroll in the ROTC, officially opened July 1, 1947. President L. H. Foster states that Virginia State is the only Negro school now offering courses and a commission in the Quartermaster Corps.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE announces early fall publication of the 1947-edition of the *Negro Year Book*. Edited by Mrs. Jessie Parkhurst Guzman, director of the department of records and research at the Institute, the 1947-edition contains a new feature of contributions by twenty-five experts in their respective fields. The new edition covers mainly the period 1941-1946.

At the WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE summer session convocation on August 15, the convocation speaker was Rev. Moses Newsome, pastor of the First Baptist church, Charleston. Forty-five students received degrees.

Fifteen ROTC students of the college were enrolled in Camp Campbell ROTC camp, Ky., during the period June 21-August 2. Four buildings are being erected on the college campus; an infirmary, a greenhouse, a farm-shop building and an addition to the automobile shop.

Recognition of the services of James Monroe Canty, first superintendent of mechanical industries, organizer, commandant and colonel first volunteer cadet corps of the institution, 1894; head of the institution, summer 1898; member of the maintenance and operation staff of 1929-1947; was made by Dean H. H. Farrell and President John W. Davis with presentation of a printed token of appreciation.

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WILBERFORCE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL ARTS summer session commencement was August 22, with the commencement address by Dr. Clyde Hissong, state director of education. Fifteen candidates received bachelor of science and education degrees.

New faculty members at the Wilberforce college of education are Leonard C. Archer, formerly of Arkansas state college, chairman of the new department of speech and dramatics; Nan Louise Phelps, statistician in the bureau of educational research and instructor in mathematics; George Wright, department of physics; Valmore Goines, department of psychology; Ames Chapman, department of sociology; and Leslie R. Nallen, department of economics.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY awarded four Ph. D's. and twenty-two masters' degrees in the largest summer graduating class in the history of the school. John Cyrus Alston, Wilberforce, Ohio; Roy Clifford Darlington, Indianapolis, Ind.; James Lee Irving, Dallas, Texas; and Cornelius Vanderbilt Troup, Brunswick, Ga.; were among the forty-five persons who received the degree of Ph. D.

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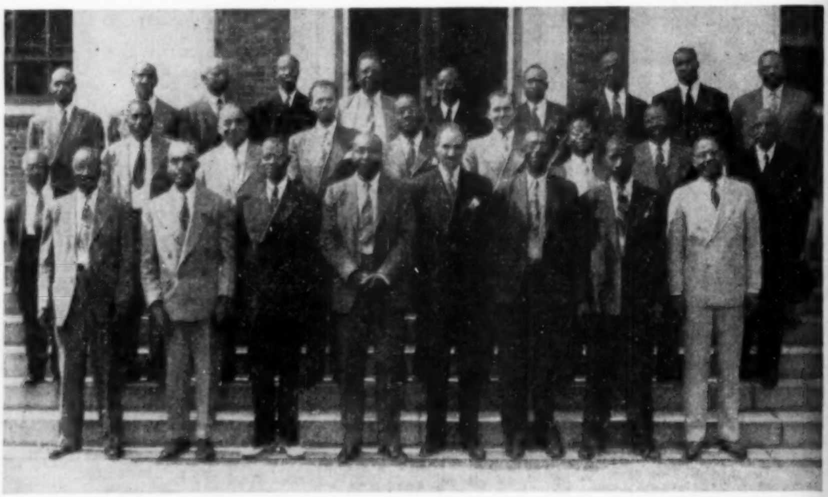


Lum Studio

FIFTH ANNUAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR MINISTERS *was held for three weeks at Virginia State College this summer. Pictured here are some of the ministers who attended.*

NEGRO LEGISLATORS PRAISED

October issue of *Here in Ohio* includes State Senator Harry E. Davis in its all-star team of outstanding Ohio legislators. Senator Davis is the first Negro to be awarded this distinction. The honor of being chosen a member of the all-star team is highly considered by Ohio legislators and is made strictly upon a basis of merit and ability by twenty legislative correspondents of the state's news service and metropolitan newspapers who daily cover the assembly sessions.

"A good man—most able in Cuyahoga county group," say the correspondents. "Ablest member of his race in the General Assembly in a quarter-century. Davis never asked a favor on the basis of his race. He never shirked his responsibility to his race."

Out in Indiana the August issue of *The Republican Record* lists State Senator Robert Lee Brokenburr as "one of Marion county's most distinguished Republican leaders." Senator Brokenburr is the first Negro ever to serve in the Indiana state senate and he has been active as a legislator since the 1941 session. He is the author of many laws affecting the judiciary and elections and has been responsible for legislation lifting racial discrimination in high school athletics and giving the Negro fair treatment in the National Guard.

INTERRACIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

Randy Wood, formerly publicity director of People's Songs, has merged with Al Anderson, jazz critic, and William Scheinman, writer, publicist and author of *Corrosive is the Color,* to form the first interracial public relations office in the business. Current roster in the new office includes bandleader Arnett Cobb, Billy Daniels; folksingers Betty Sanders, Oscar Brand, Edith Allaire and others.

Editorials

FIORELLO H. LaGUARDIA

IN the passing of the famed and colorful ex-Mayor of New York City, Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Negro Americans lost a benefactor who was no mere speechmaking friend. LaGuardia was their friend not because he gave them special, or occasionally sensational, or preferential treatment, but because in his conception of American democratic government and in his administration of it they were *included* as citizens.

Most white Americans in public and political life either deliberately or unconsciously think of Negroes as a group apart and their policies and pronouncements are shaped accordingly. Not so, LaGuardia. As mayor of the world's largest city he insisted on policies that recognized minorities as integral parts of the population.

He will be remembered for many acts which made the headlines like his precedent-shattering appointment of Hubert T. Delany as the first Negro member of the Board of Tax Commissioners, or for his appointment of Negro magistrates and judges, especially his naming of Jane M. Bolin as the first Negro woman judge in the United States.

But the real monument to LaGuardia is his reformation of the civil service of New York City, substituting meaningful examinations and merit for the district leader spoils system. This system had given Negroes but a token share of municipal jobs, and had greatly restricted Jews. Civil service lists could be by-passed by Tammany district leaders, and were, without a thought. LaGuardia changed that, with the result that several thousand Negroes secured municipal employment. It was LaGuardia who finally found a way for Negroes to qualify to take the examinations for jobs on the subway system. During the great depression of the Thirties, the LaGuardia administration enforced a policy of no discrimination in either direct relief or relief employment. Summing up his administration's attitude toward Negro citizens in a characteristic speech before the NAACP convention in Philadelphia in 1940, LaGuardia declared:

"I appointed Negroes to office in New York not because they were Negroes, but because they had the qualifications and abilities which the City of New York needed to get a job done, and every one of them has made a fine civil servant of which any municipality could be proud."

His most spectacular action, of course, was his personal direction of the police in the Harlem riot of August, 1943. The bloody Detroit riot of June of that year was still in the public press. LaGuardia was determined that his New York would not be another Detroit. Any other mayor would have visited the scene behind a screaming motorcycle escort, conferred with police, and thereafter kept in touch from a safe distance by telephone. Not LaGuardia. For ten hours his headquarters was the 123rd street police station, and he and his police commissioner, the late Lewis J. Valentine, personally handled every detail. He ate sandwiches and coffee, barked orders, argued, and swore until 3:30 a.m., when the situation was in hand and he could go home to bed. He had had a riot in his beloved New York, but it was not a race riot, and it was not a Detroit where police had shot 17 Negroes and where whites had beaten up and killed as many more.

It is safe to assert that no other public official, with the single exception of Franklin D. Roosevelt, so influenced the fortunes of Negroes as citizens. For in setting a pattern and creating a climate in the nation's largest city LaGuardia inspired Negroes everywhere in their struggle for full citizenship, and, as well, encouraged timorous and hesitant municipalities toward the ideal Americanism of complete integration of all elements of the population.

ROBERT LEE BULLARD

UNLIKE F. H. LaGuardia, General Robert Lee Bullard of South Carolina is unmourned by Negro America. This man came home after World War I and wrote his memoirs in which he went out of his way to damn and slander Negro troops. Because of his prestige and because the Dixie-dominated Army had traditional ideas on Negroes, Bullard's memoirs did great damage. They helped to confirm Army policy on colored soldiers and to erect the stubborn obstacles which confronted Negroes in uniform in 1941-45. We are making progress in spite of the Bullards, proving them marplots and liars at every turn, but our success is no cause for us to utter the customary soft word at the death of a detractor. We hope he rests uneasily wherever he is, for there is no greater sin than the spreading of hatred betwen men.

TAFT AND FEPC

SENATOR ROBERT A. TAFT spent September touring the Far West in a frank survey to determine whether he should declare himself formally a candidate for the Republican nomination for President in 1948. Up to the time this was written Senator Taft had declared himself on nearly every important public question, but he remained silent on a federal FEPC law. This legislation is of prime interest to minority group voters, but Mr. Taft did not explain why his committee on labor in the Senate refused to report S. 984, the anti-discrimination bill, favorably, why it was sent back for "further study," or why the GOP has failed, thus far, to keep its platform pledge of 1944 to enact FEPC legislation.

The Republicans can pass this bill if they wish to do so. They have a decisive majority. They demonstrated their power in the House by jamming through the anti-poll tax bill. Unlike the Democratic majority under FDR, the GOP has no southern bloc to hamstring it on this type of legislation. Senator Taft and the Republicans might do good for themselves by speaking and acting on FEPC.

NAZIS IN WASHINGTON

TO those who might have thought that all Nazis are in Germany it must have come as a surprise that residents of a suburb of Washington, D. C., have filed suit to compel a non-Jewish wife to dispossess her Jewish husband from their home. This suburb is restricted against Jews and Negroes and the neighbors claim that the presence of Aaron Tushin is causing "irreparable damage" to the area. They want the wife to put him out.

This may be, as the Tushin lawyer states, the first case of its kind involving religion, but it is not the first involving what we please to call "race." There are two California cases of white and Indian and white and Chinese marriages where suit was filed to oust the non-white partners. There is a Michigan case where the Negro husband was enjoined from even visiting his white wife.

These cases illustrate the psychopathic lengths to which racial and religious prejudice have brought some sections of our population. They illustrate anew the importance of the two cases on restrictive residential covenants which are to be argued before the United States Supreme Court during the October term. If America is to perpetuate these ridiculous and wicked divisions in neighborhoods, how can she expect to lead a world toward democratic unity and peace?

CONNIE LEONARD *tethers the cow in the cool shade of the orchard.*

MADELINE ("Pee-Wee") LEONARD *is proud of her dog, Frisco, named after the city where a fire destroyed their household goods.*

Dream's End

By W. J. Granberg

Leonard's dream realized put a run-down, seven-acre farm back in the pay column

ORDINARILY you wouldn't expect a man from Brooklyn to know much about farming, much less wind up in the Far West, where farming is a specialty occupation, as owner of a seven-acre ranch that is doing quite well after less than two years under the hands of Robert Leonard and family.

And don't forget the family. There are eleven in the Leonard family, and all of them, except the baby, have their chores. Maybe that's what makes the farm a success, maybe that is the reason a run-down seven-acre ranch is again in the pay column—the fact that Robert Leonard and his hard-working family don't know the meaning of the word *defeat.*

But let's start at the beginning, or at least far enough back to find out how the Leonard family happens to be making a success of a farm just outside Seattle, Washington.

During the war, the Leonards lived in San Francisco where the head of the family was a bus operator. Good wages and overtime pay enabled him to support his family nicely. But with the war's end and less take-home pay, things began to pinch. Mr. Leonard decided he was going to have to find some other job by which to support his growing family. The final blow came when fire struck the apartment house in which they were living and destroyed all their household goods.

Leonard, however, turned the disaster into good fortune. Like all men, he had his dream. He had the dream the years he had lived in Brooklyn, and he had it in San Francisco. He would dream while tooling his bus through the traffic of Market Street. A farm. He wanted a farm where a man could get next to the warm earth and make himself a good clean living for his family. A farm where the kids could grow up with wide-open spaces in which to play, with none of the hazards and

In neat array are the berries, vegetables, and orchard of the Leonard seven-acre ranch, reclaimed from grass and weeds by a man who had a dream. House and farm buildings are in the background.

dangers of the city to plague them. Leonard had heard of the state of Washington, its temperate climate, and the opportunity it offered a man willing to work. He talked it over with his wife, Julia. Being an understanding woman, she shared his dream. Whatever fears she might have had, she kept to herself. Whatever her doubts, she smiled and encouraged him.

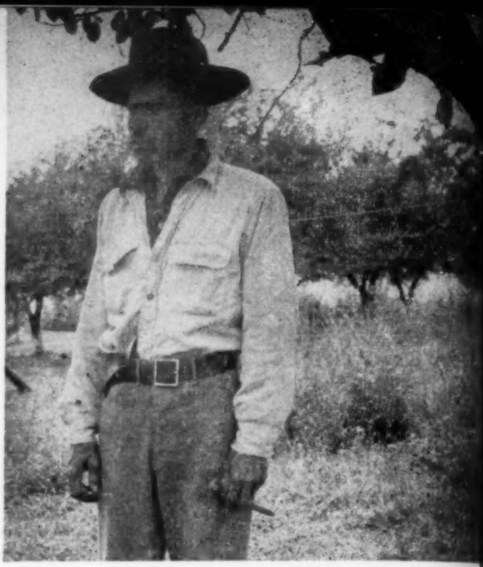
Now Robert Leonard was forty-eight years old at Christmastide of 1945 when he decided to make his dream come true, and forty-eight is not young for a man to be starting all over again. But it isn't old either, for a man with the right dream. He had been born on his grandmother's 300-acre farm in New York state and in the back of his mind was the memory of his boyhood days helping her. He didn't forget them when he lived in Brooklyn, or during World War I when he served in the army. Wiped out in a fire, with a job that wasn't netting him enough to live on, Leonard decided now was the time to make his dreams come true.

He started walking, hitch-hiking. He hitch-hiked to Washington, to Seattle,

CONNIE (*left*), and **MRS. LEONARD** (*right*) *sell their vegetables, fruit, and berries in the Public Market at Seattle, Washington. Freshly picked, the produce is welcomed by eager buyers.*

GREEN ONIONS
5

CONNIE LEONARD *(left) and Roberta pose with Richard, born this spring in Seattle.*



ROBERT LEONARD *wasn't afraid of hard work, nor is any member of his family. Leonard is shown here as he paused from his harvesting labors.*

and his dream was in his head all the way. Leonard didn't know a soul in Seattle, or which way to turn to look for a farm. He went to the Community Chest Urban League and talked to Dean Hart.

"I don't want charity," he told Hart. "I just want a chance to work, work hard."

Then he told Hart of his dream, or as much of it as he figured a stranger should know. Dean Hart was impressed with his visitor's sincerity, saw that the man who had hitch-hiked all the way from San Francisco honestly wanted a small farm, had the ability and desire to work at it.

Hart knew of an old seven-acre farm near Bellevue, ten miles east of Seattle. The land had not been cultivated for 20 years. House and barn were ramshackle, the orchard was overgrown. In fact, it was so rundown a place that Hart doubted anyone could save it from the wilderness. But Leonard thought he could.

"A man can make a living out of it, if he's willing to work," he told Hart.

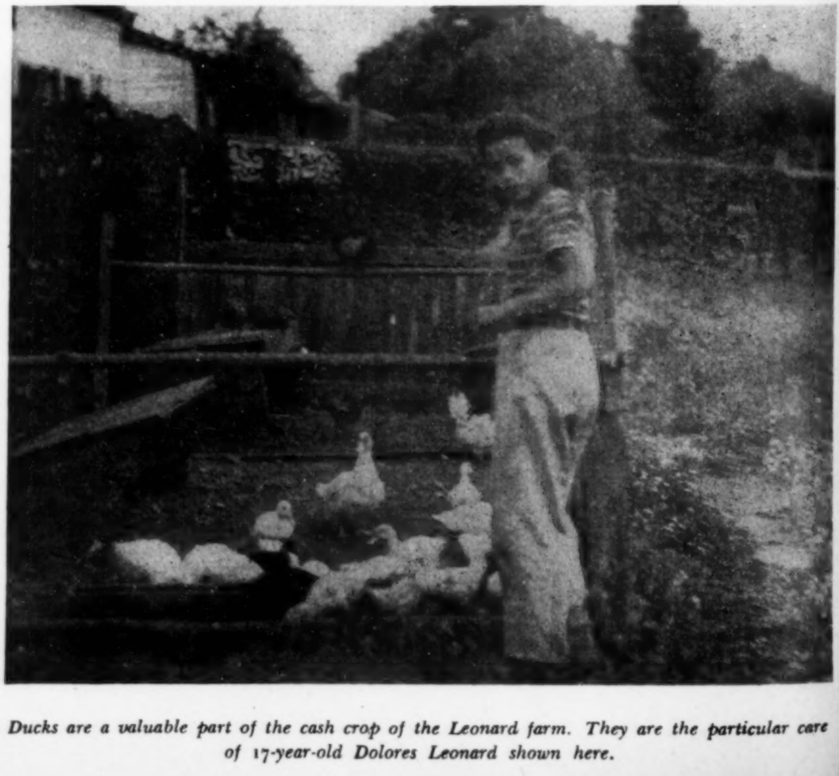
Getting the farm didn't involve much money, nobody seemed to want it much, and Leonard went to work. He went to bed at dark and got up at four o'clock in the morning. He cleaned the grass and weeds from enough soil that first spring to plant a few vegetables. He cleaned out the orchard and pruned the trees. During his so-called spare time he did odd jobs in the town of Bellevue to earn enough money to send for his family.

When they came, it was easier. He had more help, someone to cook nourishing meals from his first crops. There were his wife, Julia; his children, Dolores, 17; Connie, 15; Roberta, 13; Robert, 11; Vivian, 8; Madeline, 6; Ronnie, 4.

The womenfolk set to work and painted the house and farm buildings, inside and out, while the youngsters helped with the chores. Leonard built chicken coops, turkey pens, duck hatchery. He bought a cow so there would be plenty of milk. For less than $5 he bought enough odds and ends of scrap electrical goods to wire and heat a 500-egg incubator. And, finally, he put in a water line to the house, barn, and fields.

There came back to Robert Leonard the things he had learned in his boyhood on his grandmother's farm, the little tricks of planting and cultivating

(Continued on page 317)



Ducks are a valuable part of the cash crop of the Leonard farm. They are the particular care of 17-year-old Dolores Leonard shown here.

The Freeing of India

By W. E. B. Du Bois

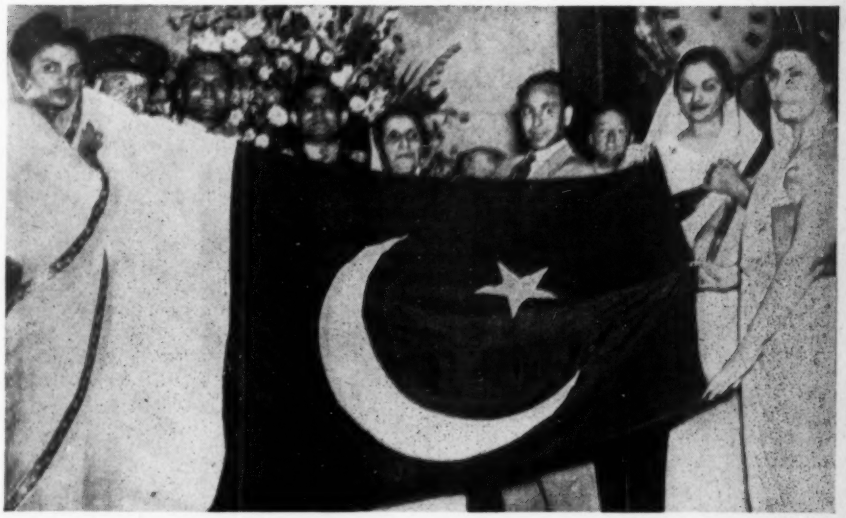
A review of India's glorious and tragic past and the importance of her present freedom for the colored world

THE fifteenth of August deserves to be remembered as the greatest historical date of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This is saying a great deal, when we remember that in the nineteenth century, Napoleon was overthrown, democracy established in England, Negro slaves emancipated in the United States, the German Empire founded, the partition of Africa determined upon, the Russian Revolution carried through, and two world wars fought. Nevertheless, it is true that the fifteenth of August marks an event of even greater significance than any of these; for on that date four hundred million colored folk of Asia were loosed from the domination of the white people of Europe.

It was not a gift nor act of grace. It was forced from the British Empire by the determination of the Indians themselves. Moreover, it was accomplished, not by blood and war, but by peace and grim determination. But for the action of one selfish man, M. A. Jinnah, originally encouraged by the English, there would have been practically no bloodshed in this vast revolution. Even as it is, the number of people killed in India by religious fanaticism during this emancipation is as nothing compared with the millions who fell in the American Civil War, in the Napoleonic Wars, and in two World Wars of Europe and America.

Indian Panorama

What is India? It is 1,500 thousand square miles of territory, with four hundred millions of people. They are mixed descendants of Negroes and Negroids; Mongolians, Western Asiatics, and Eastern Europeans. They vary in



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THE PAKISTAN *flag photographed during the ceremony of raising the new flag at Lancaster House, London, England.*

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A VILLAGE CLINIC *in south India maintained by one of the cotton mill companies.*

color from black to white, and they are divided religiously into one hundred and fifty million Hindus, ninety million Mohammedans, thirteen million Sikhs, Jains and Christians, and many millions of smaller groups. They speak some two hundred and twenty-two languages and dialects.

The Indians are wretchedly poor. Lajpat Rai says: "The people of India are the poorest on earth. If there existed such poverty in any other country in Europe or America, the Government would have been turned out of office."

Sir William Hunter, one of the most candid writers and a distinguished historian of India, Director-General of Indian statistics for many years, declared that 40,000,000 of the people of India were seldom or never able to satisfy their hunger. It has been calculated that the average Indian family receives not more than twenty-five dollars a year. They are at least 75 per cent illiterate and despite sixteen universities mostly of recent growth there are only fifteen million children in school. All this has been represented as taking place despite the philanthropy of Europe, and especially of England. This is of course a gross misinterpretation of history; it stems from the literary propaganda of which Rudyard Kipling was the especial example, which has led people for decades to picture India as a great and backward country led by powerful, honest and semi-royal whites and represented by a few gorgeously caparisoned Princes with millions of dollars in jewels and income.

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" . . . **MOHANDAS GANDHI,** *the man who began his fight for freedom in South Africa in behalf of both Indians and Negroes, and who in India began his celebrated strife for peaceful rebellion, non-cooperation and self-rule in 1920."*

Early Indian Education

Rev. F. E. Keay, writing on Ancient Indian Education, 1918, says that in the past Indian education was not inferior to the education of Europe, before the Revival of Learning. Not only did the Brahman educators develop a system of education which survived the crumbling of empires and the changes of society, but they also through all these thousands of years, kept aglow the torch of higher learning, and numbered amongst them many great thinkers who have left their mark not only upon the learning of India, but upon the intellectual life of the world.

When Buddhism came, it organized and developed a system of education. The Buddhist system was very much like the Brahmanical system from which it borrowed largely. Some of the Buddhist universities were of enormus size. Their high standards of learning attracted many scholars from China, some of whom have left on record description of these seats of learning. Buddhist education was by no means theological education. The study of medicine received special attention at the Buddhist universities. The Buddhist seats of learning did not shut their doors on any caste or creed. The high caste, the low caste, the Buddhist, the would-be Buddhist, the non-Buddhist were all welcome. The contribution of Buddhist monks to elementary mass education was also considerable. Because of its Buddhist monasteries, practically every male adult in Burma was literate when the British set foot there.

The history of India is a story of change and tragedy. Three or four thousand years before Christ, a black people established civilization in the valley of the Ganges and other centers. Upon them descended invaders: Mongolians, from the East; Indo-Europeans from the west: and finally the great Mohammedan incursion in the sixteenth century and later. A fine and striking primitive civilization arose in India upon the black Dravidian foundation; it had a philospohy, a social organization, a splendid art.

In India was born, five centuries before Christ, one of the greatest of the world's religious leaders, usually depicted as black and crisp-haired, Gautama Buddha. He preached a religion of sacrifice and spiritual development. His religion spread over half of the world. From 264 to 227 B. C. arose the great Emperor Asoka whose wheel is pictured on the new flag of India. He began a golden age which lasted a thousand years. After this era, when Indian civilization was one of the greatest in the world, with the Buddhist religion in the lead, there came a series of invasions; the Mongolian horde under Timur from the east; the Mohammedans from the west; invasions all foreshadowed by the incursion of Alexander the Great 327 B. C.

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". . . Then the renegade **JINNAH,** *a rich landholder, raised and pressed the religious question and succeeded in temporarily dividing India on the basis of Hinduism and Mohammedanism"*

In 1525 the great Moguls were reigning and the fame of their wealth and extravagance turned the attention of Europe toward India. From 1556 to 1605 reigned the great Emperor Ak-Bar and the Mohammedan empire glowed and died under his successors during the seventeenth century. By that time the attention of Europe was definitely turned toward India as a source of wealth, and in waves came the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French and finally the British. By the battle of Plassey in 1757 the English became masters of the fate of India. A great English writer Howitt tells of what the Dutch did in India:

> To secure dominion they compelled the princes of Ternate and Tidore to consent to the rooting up of all the clove and nutmeg trees in the island not entirely under the jealous safeguard of Dutch keeping. For this they utterly exterminated the inhabitants of Banda, because they would not submit passively to their yoke. Their lands were divided amongst the white people, who got slaves from other islands to cultivate them. For this Malacca was besieged, its territoy ravaged, and its navigation interrupted by pirates; Negapatan was twice attacked; Cochin was engaged in resisting the kings of Calicut and Travancor, and Ceylon and Java were made

> scenes of perpetual disturbances. These notorious dissensions have been followed by as odious oppressions, which have been practiced at Japan, China, Cambodia, Arracan on the banks of the Ganges, at Achen, Coromandel, Surat, in Persia, at Bassora, Mocha, and other places. For this they encouraged and established in Celebs a system of kidnapping the inhabitants for slaves which converted that island into a perfect hell.

English Repression

The record of the English was worse and longer:

> The power, the wealth, and the patronage brought home to them by the very violation of their own wishes and maxims were of such an overwhelming and seducing nature that it was in vain to resist them. Nay, in such colours does the modern philosophy of conquest and diplomacy disguise the worst transactions between one state and another, that is it not for plain men very readily to penetrate to the naked enormity beneath.
>
> But if there was ever one system more Machiavelian—more appropriative of the shew of justice where the basest injustice was attempted—more cold, cruel, haughty, and unrelenting than another—it is the system by which the government of the different states of India has been wrested from the hands of their respective princes and collected into the grasp of the British power.

The condition of India before the Europeans came was favorable. The historian Feroz Shah (A.D. 1351-1394) expatiates on the happy state of the peasant, the goodness of their houses and furniture, and the general use of gold and silver ornaments by their women."

"The general state of the country must no doubt have been flourishing. Nicolo de Conti, who travelled about 1420 A. D., speaks highly of what he saw in Guzerat, and found the banks of the Ganges covered with towns amidst beautiful gardens and orchards, and passed four famous cities before he reached Maarazia, which he describes as a powerful city filled with gold, silver and precious stones. His accounts are corroborated by those of Barbora and Bartema, who travelled in the early part of the sixteenth century.

"Abdurizag, an ambassador from the grandson of Tamerlane, visited the South of India in 1442, and concurs with other observers in giving the impression of a prosperous country. The kingdom of Kandeish was at this time in a high state of prosperity under its own Kings; the numerous stone embankments by which the streams were rendered applicable to irrigation are equal to anything in India as works of industry and ability."

Baber speaks of Hindustan "as a rich and noble country and expresses his astonishment at the swarming population and the innumerable workmen of every kind and description." Political subjection to Europe followed in the nineteenth century.

Lajpat Rai, the great Indian martyr said:

> Political subjection is the punishment of social evils and national crimes, but once imposed, it adds to their volume and intensity. It effectively checks any rejuvenation or reconstruction. It accentuates social evils and weaknesses. It leads to poverty in all its hideous forms, mental, moral and physical. If ever an awakening comes, it is delayed, or checked and crushed by all the forces of law and diplomacy, and of cunning and fraud. It is a part of the Imperial game to paint the subject people in the blackest colours, and to slander and libel them most shamelessly. The object is to produce and perpetuate the slave mentality of the subject people, and to obtain the moral sanction of the rest of the world for usurping the rights, properties and liberties of other peoples. This is the genesis of the philosophy of the white man's burden. This is the mentality which stimulates the Empire-builder. This is the material with which the 'steel frames' are forged to keep the subject peoples in hand and to prevent them from doing any harm to themselves, by aspiring to and working for their freedom. That is how Britain made her Empire in India.

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JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, *prime minister in the new Indian government, is next to Gandhi the most important man in India. One of the architects of Indian freedom, he has like the Mahatma spent many of his years in prison.*

Howitt says:

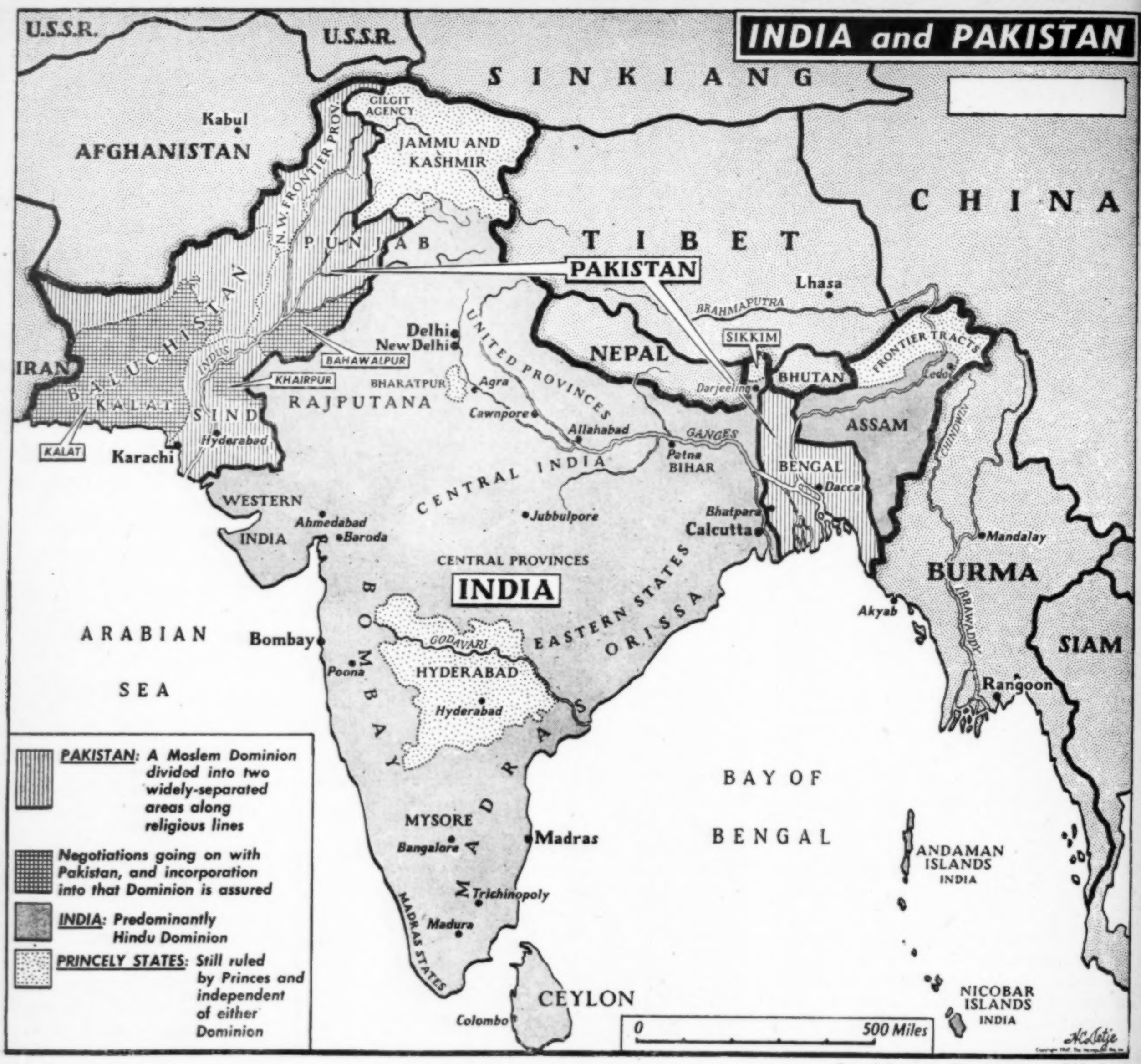
> The first step in the English friendship with the native princes, has generally been to assist them against their neighbours with troops, or to locate troops with them to protect them from aggression. For these services such enormous recompense was stipulated for, that the unwary princes, entrapped by their fears of their native foes rather than of their pretended friends, soon found that they were utterly unable to discharge them. Dreadful exactions were made of their subjects, but in vain. Whole provinces, or the revenues of them were soon obliged to be made over to their grasping friends but they did not suffice for their demands. In order to pay them their debts or their interest, the princes were obliged to borrow large sums at an extravagant rate. These sums were eagerly advanced by the English in their private and individual capacities, and securities again taken on lands or revenues. At every step the unhappy princes became more and more embarrassed, and as embarrassment increased, the claims of the company became proportionably pressing. In the technical phraseology of money-lenders, the screw was then turned, till there was no longer any enduring it.

Indian Revolts

From the middle of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth, bloody revolt and oppression was the history of this land. Revolts took place in 1758, 1775, 1782, 1790, 1805, 1814, 1817, 1823, 1837, 1844, 1850 culminating in the great mutiny of 1852. The stench of Indian misgovernment, graft, and theft at last made the British Crown take over the government from the celebrated East India Company. In 1858, India became a part of the British Empire, and in 1877 Victoria was made "Empress of India" by the great Jewish prime minister, Disraeli.

This did not stop, rather it began the inner struggle of India for freedom. Governors changed and became more liberal and tried to strive for better conditions in India; but the whole object of the British in India was still to make profit through private investment. And when the government interfered with investment, it simply meant that well-intentioned reforms did not go through. The land became monopolized by money-lenders; industry became subservient to English trade; Indian art and artisanship was driven out of the market; the peasants and laborers became poorer and poorer, and the whole country more and more ignorant. In spite of all the boasting of empire, England with her imperial might lay upon India like a blight.

The First World War brought matters to a crisis. Beginning in 1917 Great Britain tried to give India a constitution and rights, but arranged them on her own terms without allowing the Indians any voice in drawing up the new constitution. The great result of this effort was Mohandas Gandhi, the man who began his fight for freedom in South Africa in behalf of both Indians and Negroes; and who now in In-


INDIA and PAKISTAN
U.S.S.R.
U.S.S.R.
SINKIANG
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GILGIT AGENCY
JAMMU AND KASHMIR
N.W. FRONTIER PROV.
CHINA
PUNJAB
TIBET
PAKISTAN
Lhasa
BALUCHISTAN
INDUS
BRAHMAPUTRA
Delhi
New Delhi
UNITED PROVINCES
SIKKIM
FRONTIER TRACTS
BAHAWALPUR
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Allahabad
GANGES
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BOMBAY
GODAVARI
Poona
HYDERABAD
Rangoon
Hyderabad
MADRAS
BAY OF BENGAL
MYSORE
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Madras
ANDAMAN ISLANDS INDIA
Trichinopoly
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MADRAS STATES
CEYLON
NICOBAR ISLANDS INDIA
Colombo
0 500 Miles
PAKISTAN: A Moslem Dominion divided into two widely-separated areas along religious lines
Negotiations going on with Pakistan, and incorporation into that Dominion is assured
INDIA: Predominantly Hindu Dominion
PRINCELY STATES: Still ruled by Princes and independent of either Dominion

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dia began his celebrated strife for peaceful rebellion, non-cooperation and self-rule in 1920.

The great Indian Congress was organized, one of the most successful voluntary organizations of peoples without rights that the world has ever seen. It stuck together in spite of differences in religion and aim and raised the cry of home rule in 1923. The British replied with elaborate shadow-boxing and propaganda. They called conferences in London, shot down protesters in India, and jailed the leaders, so that of the people now leading India there is not a single one who has not spent months and years in jail for demanding what they now have won in political and social freedom.

Finally because of the political results and economic complications of the Second World War, Great Britain had to let go; instead of India being in debt to Great Britain, Great Britain was hopelessly in debt to India, because of the raw materials which she had to draw from her during the war. The attitude of the Indian people was such that Great Britain did not dare compulsion. Some elements had even openly fought beside the Japanese. There was and is today wide interest in Russia and in Communism.

Divided India

Various gestures were made, the first brought by Cripps was rejected by the Indians; then the renegade Jinnah, a rich land-holder raised and pressed the religious question and succeeded in temporarily dividing India on the basis of Hinduism and Mohammedanism. Out of that, among the poor and ignorant, rose fanatical fighting among neighbors who had lived in peace for centuries. But the great Indian leaders were not to be diverted or mislead. They decided wisely to accept freedom, even though it meant for the present a divided India. This division into Pakistan and the Union of India cannot stand, because Pakistan is an agricultural country, divided by the great triangle of India; unless then it can find support in Europe, which it cannot for long, it must depend upon India for industry which means that

(*Continued on page* 316)

The Stage Teaches Democracy

New Curtains Going Up

By John Lovell, Jr.

News and comment on the Broadway playbill

ALL of us have sat in theatre or auditorium waiting for "curtain rise." These are moments of expectation and anticipatory evaluation, for behind that curtain is comedy, mystery, terror, intense reading of life, boredom. We wonder if this particular curtain will rise to unfold what we demand of excitement and inspiration.

Because in the past few years the American theatre has been so full of interesting surprises (see *ROUNDUP*, July *Crisis*), we face the curtain rise of the new season with great speculation since the theatre has slowly become a great barometer of democracy. Will the new season mean fair, cloudy, or inclement weather? Will it bring great new strides (This time last year, who could have predicted *Finian's Rainbow?*) or will it bring a terrible recession?

It will bring one present Broadway has not received for nearly seven years—a Negro author. Before you read this, *Our Lan'* will be installed at the Royale Theater in New York. It will be ushered in by one of the country's greatest dramatic organizations, the Theatre Guild. It will be staged by one of the biggest names in the theatre, Eddie Dowling. And it was written by Theodore Ward, who at thirty-three has become a full-fledged playwright.

Ward was born in Louisiana, but has been adopted by many states. He studied at the universities of Wisconsin and Utah. For two consecutive years at Wisconsin he held the coveted Zona Gale Scholarship in creative writing. This is not his first play venture, for *Big White Fog* was produced in Chicago by the Federal Theatre and later in New York by the Negro Playwrights Company.

The idea for *Our Lan'* came from Dr. DuBois's *Black Reconstruction*. It is the story of a symbolic group of Negro freedmen who have been promised land by the Union generals who had been busy clearing away the Confederates. The only land these freedmen saw was that which belonged to their erstwhile masters; this land they proceeded to take. When the new Johnson government in Washington overruled the generals and returned the land to the original owners, these freedmen were left without land. Their colorful and glorious resistance is the theme of the play.

Louis Melancon

A SCENE *from "Our Lan'", Theodore Ward's new play which opened at the Royale Theatre in New York City, September 27.*

Deep Dramatic Soil

Apart from racial matters, *Our Lan'* is rooted in the deepest dramatic soil. These people love the land and fight for it, and the color of their skins has nothing to do with that. In making the land the key to the people's hopes, and ownership of the land the people's faith, Theodore Ward is associating himself with some very great writers, from the Hebrew sages to Dostoevsky and Rolvaag.

The Theatre Guild and Messers. Dowling and Ward are ably supported in their production by a most promising cast. Muriel Smith and William Veasey play the leads. Muriel Smith is eminently well-known for her singing in *Carmen Jones* and for her progressive work outside the theatre. In a recent radio broadcast, she served notice on the Metropolitan Opera Company that she was on her way there.

William Veasey is new to Broadway, but a real find. Born in Atlanta, Ga., forty-five years ago, he has sung concerts all over the United States. He has studied organ and voice in New York and Chicago; with Marshall Rush in Paris, with DeGrotte in Brussels, and with Caroni in Milan. He has been featured soloist with the Belgian and Dutch Radio Symphonies. He speaks French and English fluently, and sings in four languages.

For four years he "trouped" the major vaudeville circuits in this country, Europe, and Australia. He served in the Army and with USO-Camp Shows. One of his stints in the latter was singing "Crown" in *Porgy and Bess*.

In top supporting roles are Julie Haydon, last seen in *The Glass Menagerie*, and Richard Angarola, who did *The Greatest of These* with Eddie Dowling, and who was selected last year to play *Romeo and Juliet* opposite Hilda Simms in the inter-racial adaption of the world-famous dramatic romance. Joshua Lee has arranged and will direct the spirituals.

Another one of the "new curtains" will open a rare accomplishment: a light comedy in which the characters just happen to be Negroes. This is significant in view of recent discussions (by Professor Glicksberg, and others) suggesting that many of the problems in which Negroes find themselves could be artistically solved by well-placed laughter and satire. The present offering was written and is being produced *Anna Lucasta* when it first went to by Harry Wagstaff Gribble, who staged Broadway. Its title is *Almost Faithful.*

Kollar Studios

MILTON WOOD

Director American Negro Repertory Players.

Almost Faithful had a tryout recently in Clinton, Conn., with Dorothy Donegan in the leading role. Commitments and other difficulties will probably force Miss Donegan's withdrawal from the cast, but it is reported that Mildred Smith is being approached on the basis of some revisions in the play. Jane White (of *Strange Fruit*), who was praised by the critics for an outstanding acting job in the Clinton tryouts, will be featured in the coming production.

Speaking of rare Negro appearances in light comedy, record should be made at this point of the *John Loves Mary* experiment. This play by Norma Krasna has been a big Broadway hit most of the year. On Sunday evening, August 10, John Golden presented it with a Negro cast as a benefit for the Urban League Service Fund. In the cast were Ruby Dee, Creighton Thompson, Milton Williams, William Greaves, Frank Silvera, Musa Williams, Elwood Smith, James Reilly, Geri Bryan, and John Bowie.

Successful Experiment

The success of this experiment and Harry Gribble's anticipated production should open a new vista of light comedy built around themes and artists which happen to be Negro. No one will deny that the new vista would be most helpful in view of the overworked "heavy" and "low-slapstick" themes. This may also be one of the best methods of showing Broadway and national producers and audiences that Negroes are human and therefore not so very different from other human beings.

Not that "heavy" themes—when they are good and powerful—need to be excluded entirely. Canada Lee, who has broken many records in the theatre (last season, you remember, he played a white man in *The Duchess of Malfi*) is about to do a new interpretation of John Wexley's *The Last Mile.* This play concerns a man about to be executed, especially his stirring psychological upheavals; although played originally by white actors, somehow the play has impressed its backers with the conclusion that dramatic talk and action in the shadow of the electric chair does not have to take on a racial tinge.

Spencer Tracy rode to stardom in the part of Killer Mears, which Canada Lee will assume. There is some talk, however, of tying the original Killer Mears in with Bigger Thomas of *Native Son* in order to let Mr. Lee pick up where he left off in 1941-1942.

Two plays without racial emphasis will see Negroes in small but impressive roles. Earl Jones will act "The Large Negro" in *The Big People;* an actress, not named at this writing, will be seen in the new play by Tennessee Williams, entitled *A Street Car Named Desire.*

The Big People, written by Stanley Young and produced by Theatre, Incorporated, has a very striking theme. The main character is a tall man who has amassed statistics to show that the world is being dominated by little people: men under five feet eight and women under five feet five. He has determined to unite the big people and break this tyranny. Naturally, he would need the assistance of at least one "Large Negro."

Earl Jones is no newcomer. Graduate of the Suitcase Theatre, he has been seen, with telling results, in *The Hasty Heart* and *Strange Fruit.*

American casts are being enthusiastically received behind new curtains going up overseas. *Deep Are the Roots* with Gordon Heath, Evelyn Ellis, and other members of the original group, competes nightly in London with plays which, from the angle of experience, have greater claim to audience attention. Regardless of its plot or problem, reports from London say that these actors show up as real people whose affairs are therefore interesting, whatever they may be.

Late in September, John Wildberg put a blue ribbon cast of *Anna Lucasta* on the boat for England. They are playing London, Manchester, and other English cities, perhaps also Edinburgh and Glasgow. The cast includes: Hilda Simms, Frederick O'Neil, Earle Hyman, Frank Silvera, John Tate, John Proctor, Betty Haynes, Kenneth Freeman, Georgia Burke, Edith Whiteman, Claire Leyba, Babe Wallace, Alonzo Fenderson, and Eddie Banks.

Benson

JAMES YOUNG

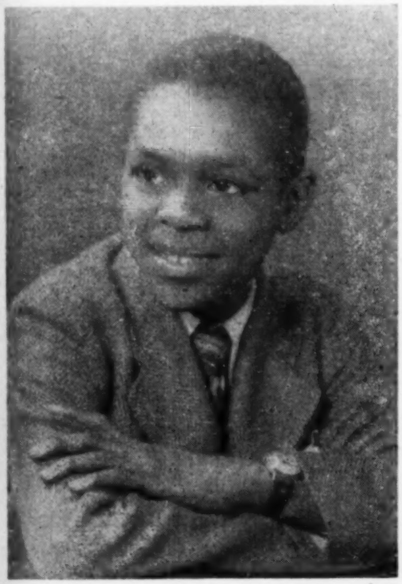
This young Hartford, Conn., singer has recently replaced Lawrence Winters in the feature role of "Call Me Mister."

Miss Simms and Mr. O'Neil are to receive star billing, as they deserve, a detail not in the original plan. Since her original, sensational success as Anna—starting the play on its run of nearly 1000 performances—Miss Simms has played in *Lady Passing Fair,* which has not yet reached Broadway, and in the interracial *Romeo and Juliet.* Though the idea for the latter is in abeyance for the present, Miss Simms is determined to do the play eventually. Her studies for the play have been prodigious; and she, Richard Angarola, and Frederick O'Neil will, no doubt, be credited with a major creative contribution when the adaptation finally reaches the boards.

Anna Lucasta Redivivus

Those theatre goers in America who missed *Anna* or who wish to see it again will get their chance. *Anna* is a fall promise for New York, and it will continue to tour the United States and Canada as it has done for the past three years.

Although as late as September 15 no announcement has been made of dates and theatres, four other plays continue as strong possibilities. The first is the much-talked of revival of *The Green Pastures,* to be produced by Jean Dalrymple, staged by its author, Marc Connelly, and capitalized at $100,000. James Baskett, who was Uncle Remus in Disney's *Song of the South,* will have the Richard Harrison role of De Lawd (as predicted in the July *Crisis).*



Apex

RICHARD WILLIAMS

Fourteen-year-old Williams has held regular roles in "Strange Fruit," "On Whitman Avenue," and in "Gay New Orleans."

Other Broadway personages who will return with *Green Pastures* include Oscar Polk and Georgette Harvey. A new choir has been trained by Hall Johnson.

The second strong possibility is a bona fide adaptation of Dumas's *The Lady of the Camellias* by Mervin Mar. If presented, it will have a solid Negro cast. Thomas Hammond and Associates of Hollywood, the producers, say that it will have no musical comedy effects and will be true 1850 Paris. Sydney Engelberg is creating the five scenic designs and costumes.

The firm of Carmen Capalbo and Leo Lieberman has on its schedule two plays of Southern life which it says are "part and parcel of the story of America's struggle for democracy." They are Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* (from the Pulitzer Prize novel) and Calder Willingham's *End as a Man.* Negro characters exist in both novels from which these plays come, and more than likely they will appear in the plays.

Gypsy Mute

Very notable, indeed, is the case of *The Medium,* featuring Leo Coleman, a former Katherine Dunham dancer. *The Medium* came within a hair's breadth of being a Broadway casualty on two or three occasions during its first month, but it is now an established Broadway hit.

Leo Coleman plays the part of Toby, the gypsy mute. He and Monica, daughter of the fake spiritualist, who has the leading role, are in love. It is not an interracial love affair, merely a love affair of two human beings, and no problem is made of their accidental membership in different "races." The same kind of thing, also without admiration, happened in *Begger's Holiday* when Alfred Drake as Macheath fell in love with Mildred Smith as Lucy Lockit.

Coleman's ability to express the gamut of emotions on the scale of love and fear, merely by movement and gesture, has been a source of recurrent praise from critics and the general public, many of whom testify to having returned a second and third time to watch him. He looks forward to the show's going on tour, and especially to its presentation in his hometown, Detroit.

James Young has recently been added to the cast of *Call Me Mister* to replace Lawrence Winters, who has entered (for the time being) the concert field. Young is a native of Hartford, Conn., and first showed his musical ability in the Bulkeley high school there. At Virginia State College, he was soloist in the glee club under the direction of Harold Montagu.

He has studied under Cleota Collins, Henry Herz, and Henry Jacoby. He was soloist at St. Mark's Church in New York at the time he won, through audition, his present role. He sings "Face on the Dime" and "Red Ball Express" with genuine authority.

Annie, Get Your Gun and *Finian's Rainbow,* which between them have employed more than fifty Negro artists, still continue to set records as well as to amuse, touch, and educate the public. Singers and dancers from the *Rainbow* crop up everywhere: at monster benefits, in guest appearances at distinguished night clubs, in the movies, on the radio. Jerry Laws, for example, has been singing with "The Four Pals" in the Dogwood Room of the Blackstone Hotel in New York City.

Camilla Williams will be back with the New York City Opera Company, singing Puccini's *Madame Butterfly,* twice in October, and again later in the season.

Perhaps no movement is more important in the field of American home culture than the traveling troupes that are taking the drama to the people. This writer has several times mentioned Powell Lindsay, his Negro Drama Group, and the enlightenment they carry to hungry audiences south, east, and west.

Talbot

JANE WHITE

Miss White, who was the "Nonnie" of "Strange Fruit," has a major role in the forthcoming play, "Almost Faithful."

Joining him in that movement this season is a new group—the American Negro Repertory Players, under the direction of Milton Wood. Wood's finished work has been acclaimed by critics of radio, screen, and Broadway stage. A graduate of West Virginia State College, and a Master of Arts in speech and dramatic arts from the University of Iowa, he is as well-equipped theoretically as he is practically.

His fall tour will include cities and towns in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. His plays are *Angel Street* and *Private Lives.* He has in his repertory group,

(Continued on page 315)

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Stan Thomas

BRANCH DINNER – *These members of the Rochester, N. Y., branch are (seated, left to right): Mildred L. Steele, recording secretary; Mrs. Charles T. Lunsford, wife of the branch president; Dr. Charles T. Lunsford, president; and Mrs. Donald Shorts. Standing, (left to right): Dr. Isabel K. Wallace, Mrs. Phate Robinson, Mrs. Harold E. Nicely, Mrs. Millard E. Latimer, and Mrs. Chauncy A. Curtis, acting executive secretary.*

JUNIOR DRUM CORPS *of the Santa Clara County, Calif., branch is a mixed group composed of 18 boys and 18 girls ranging in age from five to twelve. The corps created a sensation in Palo Alto when it made its initial appearance in the Spring Festival Parade on May 3. The corps received a certificate of ward for excellence from the Recreation Commission.*

RESTRICTIVE RACIAL COVENANTS

Covenants and the Courts: In the thirty years which have passed since the U. S. Supreme Court declared the Louisville, Ky., residential-segregation ordinance unconstitutional (*Buchanan v. Warley*, 1917), advocates of racial ghettos have used many methods, legal and otherwise, in their efforts to confine Negroes and certain minorities to artificially created rookeries. All have had their uses for a time; none have succeeded permanently. The latest and what seems the most widespread and popular device is the racial restrictive covenant.

The restrictive covenant is a key factor in the creation of American ghettos by virtue of its imposition of artificial barriers against the normal residential expansion of certain minority groups. It is a denial of a fundamental human right—the right to a decent home. The restrictive covenant, the by-product of fear, merely reinforces and perpetuates that fear; thus creating tension areas, prejudice, and often violence.

It is a depressor of property values, though not those of the minority group who innocently suffer by them. It means physical deterioration of property because of the severe overcrowding it necessarily entails. By lowering property values in one area, it necessitates additional tax-burdens in others. Everybody loses by it. It is a basic cause of delinquency, crime and disease, natural concomitants of run-down and overcrowded living conditions.

The racial restrictive covenant symbolizes the basic unhealthiness of American democracy. It becomes a rationalization in support of segregation in other fields, such as education, the franchise, health and welfare, and transportation. Thus partially complete physical separation implements and assures similar segregation in all aspects of daily living.

What has happened because of restrictive covenants in American cities? Let us take Detroit, Mich., as a typical example. Two hundred and three thousand of Detroit's 213,345 Negroes (in 1944) lived crowded into the slums of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley. Eight thousand, or 90-95 per cent of the homes they occupied in 1940 were, and undoubtedly still are, physically substandard, yet they pay 30 to 50 per cent more than the whites do for better quarters. Ten to twelve children are forced to sleep in one room; whole families must make one half a room do for a home.

Restrictive covenants came into being in Detroit in 1910 when the Negro population numbered but 5,741. As the Negro population increased, so did the number of restrictive covenants. Since 1940 not a single new subdivision in Detroit has been sold without such restrictions in the deed, and, according to Loren Miller, this is true everywhere today. If this were not the case, Negroes who constitute 20 per cent of the population of Baltimore would not be occupying a mere 2 per cent of the land area in that city. If this were not the case, Chicago's "Black Belt" would not have a denser population than Calcutta, nor would a single block in Harlem house 3,871 persons, a density which, if extended, would permit the entire population of the whole United States to live in just one half of New York City. Maps of other large American cities would illustrate a similar pattern, their large, well defined Negro areas proving the existence of restrictive covenants. Such concentrated areas would not exist were such covenants not effectively in force in these cities.

The fear that is responsible for the existence of the racial restrictive covenant will never be dissipated until the restrictive covenant goes. The Supreme Court of the United States will, in the near future, decide upon the legality of private racial restrictive agreements against the sale of land to Negroes, Jews and non-Caucasions for residential purposes, and whether such agreements can be enforced by a court order evicting members of these minorities from homes which they have already purchased.

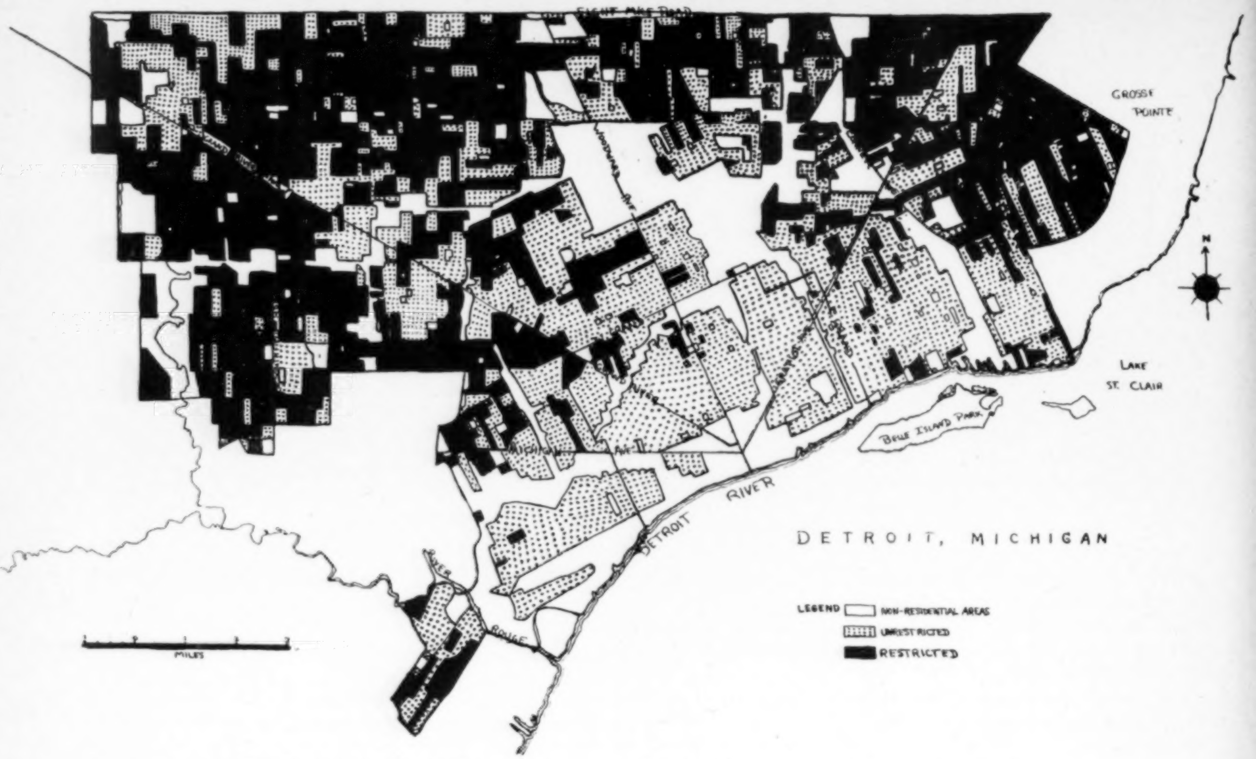
The U. S. Supreme Court will this fall review two lower court decisions involving racial restrictive covenants on residential property. The first is that of *Shelley v. Kraemer,* arising out of a restrictive covenant agreement in St. Louis, Mo., and the second is that of *McGhee v. Sipes,* arising in Detroit, Michigan. The Supreme Court has been asked to review two other cases and they will probobly be placed on the docket for hearing this fall. One, *The Trustees of the Monroe Avenue Church v. Palmer,* coming from Columbus, Ohio, involves the right of an interracial church to have a Negro minister live in the rectory owned by the church when said rectory is on land covered by a restrictive covenant. The other is a joint case, *Hurd v. Hodges* and *Urciola v. Hodges,* in which both the Negro purchaser and the white seller of a piece of land covered by a restrictive covenant in the District of Columbia are contesting the validity of

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE — *Some of the members of the 1947 campaign committee of the White Plains, N. Y., branch. Front row (left to right): James E. Wynn, Edmond Bernard, campaign chairman; Mrs. Edmonia Jefferson, William Harris; second row: Rose Davis, Mrs. Ora L. Wren, Mrs. Fannie Whitted; third row: Floyd Rivers, Mrs. Donnie Williams, Dorothy Jefferson, and Jefferson E. Perry, branch president.*

14
CHG. BRANCH N.A.A.C.P. YOUTH COUNCIL
YOUTH SERVES THE COMMUNITY

S. L. Street

A FLOAT *of the Chicago, Ill., youth council in the annual Bud Billiken parade held in Chicago, August 9.*



COVENATED AREAS *in Detroit, Mich., cover from 80 to 85 per cent of residential areas not already occupied by Negroes. This "covenated" pattern in Detroit is repeated in most of the large urban centers throughout the nation.*

the restriction.

Recently, NAACP lawyers and lawyers from other civil rights and religious organizations gathered in New York to discuss the question of restrictive covenants. At that conference it was estimated that more than three hundred restrictive covenant cases are now pending in the lower courts throughout the country. The record in one NAACP case in Chicago shows that approximately 80 per cent of the residential property not now occupied by Negroes is covered by restrictive covenants. Lester Velie put the figure for Detroit at 85 per cent; while Loren Miller, prominent west coast attorney, estimates that the figure for Los Angeles is even higher. The record in St. Louis restrictive covenant case contains uncontradicted testimony that the only way a Negro can secure a home in St. Louis is for another Negro to die or move away.

The basic argument which will be presented to the Supreme Court by attorneys Charles Houston, Loren Miller, and George Vaughn in the two cases already set for review are:

That when a state court issues an injunction enforcing a restrictive covenant or agreement, ordering the member of the restricted minority group to move from his home, the state is taking action prohibited by the clause in the United States Constitution which provides that a state may not deprive a person of property without due process of law or deny to any person the equal protection of the law.

That a private contract providing for the restriction of large areas of land against use by Negroes or members of any other designated class within our society are unenforceable in the courts because they are contraray to the public policy of the United States. This public policy is expressed in the Constitution, in the Atlantic Charter, and in that provision of the Charter of the United Nations which states that the member nations will undertake to promote respect for fundamental human rights and to promote tolerance and brotherhood.

Aside from the effect upon all minority groups within the United States of a court enforcement of such restrictive contracts which build up legalized ghettos in American life, it is clear that any endorsement of such a philosphy by the highest court in the United States would be interpreted throughout the world as another instance of America's failure to practice at home what she preaches abroad. It would provide further documentation for the statement on the denial of human rights to minority citizens of Negro descent, and would be considered as such in the appeal to the United Nations for the redress of such grievances, which is now being filed with the United Nations by the NAACP.

What the Branches Are Doing

Alabama: The executive committee of the **Birmingham** branch checked up during the summer on recreational opportunities in the area for Negro citizens. A large register-to-vote campaign was conducted August 6-14 in Birmingham and August 4-5 in Bessemer. Second anniversary of the Tarrant City unit was celebrated August 10 at the Ebenezer Baptist church, Ketona, with Mrs. Barbara V. Durr, branch president, as the featured speaker.

Tarrant leaders have revived their complaint that Negro citizens are being barred from the ABC store in that city, with the result that certain whites are making a racket out of the situation by charging barred Negroes a fee for purchasing their alcoholic beverages in the store. The branch has written letters in reference to these charges to Chairman Kelly of the State ABC Board and to Mayor Erwin, but has so far received no formal acknowledgement of their receipt.

Thomas

BOSTON BRANCH, MASS., PANCAS *in the 1947 membership campaign.*

California: Charges of assault and battery were placed against Toni Reer, Madera storekeeper, in July by the Madera branch following an incident in which he is alleged to have struck and kicked a small thirteen-year-old Negro girl, Millie Mango. Reer's son is said to have struck the girl as she started out of the store. She returned the blow, whereupon the boy's father grabbed her by the hair, threw her down, and kicked her. The girl was later taken to a hospital and treated for her injuries.

Trial of Toni Reer was held July 31 and he was found guilty of assault and battery and fined $100. According to Napoleon Greene, president of the Madera branch, a suit for damages is to be filed against Reer now that he has been found guilty.

According to reports sent to Noah W. Griffin, west coast regional coordinator, the Long Branch unit has extended its 1947 membership drive to October 31. Reuben B. White, chairman of the membership drive publicity committee, announces that 157 members have been secured to date in the branch's drive for its goal of 750.

The Marin County branch received the Thalheimer award for outstanding work done in the division of smaller branches in its fight against segregation in theatres, housing, and employment.

Climax to the annual membership drive of the Alameda County branch was a fashion extravaganza, Dreams in Silhouette, given on August 3 at the Oakland auditorium by Eadward, nationally-known hair stylist. Joe Adams, popular Warner Brothers announcer, was commentator; and the musical score was under the direction of Samuel Brown and Cab Caballero.

Although charges were subsequently dropped against them, Joe Adams and Franklin C. Johnson of Los Angeles figured in August in a case which dramatically demonstrated the need for continued and widespread support of the NAACP program. Ironically enough, both young men were in San Francisco in interest of the benefit show which was being staged for the Alameda County branch.

According to statements made by the pair, they were arrested upon their arrival in a taxi at the San Francisco bay bridge terminal between 5:45 and 6:15 P.M. after another taxi driver had refused to transport them because he believed Jackson to be a white man and objected to hauling "mixed" fares.

Jackson, an olive-skinned, Latin-type Negro, declared that the taxi driver objected to taking him and Adams, and that when Jackson tried to prove that he was a Negro like Adams, the driver refused, asserting that he didn't take "niggers nowhere." When Adams started to show his own credentials, a gun, which Adams is authorized to carry as a deputy sheriff of Los Angeles, was revealed. The two men later got another taxi, but the first driver, having seen the gun, notified the police.

When they alighted from the cab at the terminal, Jackson and Adams were met by a policeman with a drawn revolver, and with him was the first taxi driver, who identified the pair. Still covered by the policeman's gun, the now angry taxi driver was allowed to beat and kick Joe Adams. Both Adams and Jackson were finally locked in separate cells at the Central police station in Kearny Street. Efforts of the Alameda County branch through its officers, C. L. Dallums and Henry Johnson, to obtain their release was futile. However, two days later Jackson and Adams were released on bail.

The charges placed against Jackson and Adams at their trial a day later, vagrancy and carrying a concealed weapon, were dropped. However, the West Coast regional office is going to investigate the case further.

The Fresno branch sent a letter to the Fresno *Bee* registering a strong protest against the methods used by this paper in publicizing the self-confessed murderer William Lacefield, only recently released from a mental hospital. Regional director Noah W. Griffin was principal speaker at the August 2 meeting of the Stockton branch. In Pasadena the branch has succeeded in getting integrated housing for Negroes and Mexicans. In Spokane the branch is fighting against a segregated community center setup. In Vancouver branch president Mark A. Smith has been appointed to the local housing authority as tenant relations advisor in the Adjusted Rents Office.

Arthur R. Cash, chairman, veterans committee of the Vancouver branch, recently received a communication from Governor M. C. Wallgren in reply to a proposal of the branch regarding integration of colored personnel in units of the National Guard of the state of Washington.

Governor Wallgren stated: "E. M. Llewellyn has been for sometime working on this problem, for he has a personal interest in broadening the recruiting basis for the Washington National Guard based on integration of minority races in our National Guard units. During the war, General Llewellyn personally requested that colored personnel be assigned to his unit for integration with members of the white race. In a small way this worked well, and he is now working on a program which will bring Japanese and Negroes into the Washington National Guard on a basis that will meet with War Department policies covering this integration."

It is apparent from Governor Wallgren's reply that what the state of Washington contemplates is not a program of integration but a program that follows established Army patterns. He states: "Over a period of nearly a century it has been the policy of the War Department to use minority races in both combat and service units. During the past war this program was broadened to integrate minority racial groups in separate platoons within units which were predominantly white. At the present time the War Department is working to broaden even this program but has not as yet issued enabling orders. During an intermittent period General Llewellyn is working to organize in this state, separate units with battalions which will be composed of both officers and enlisted men of minority races. This program has never been used in this state due to the fact that minority races constituted such a small percentage of the population that this had never before come up as a problem."

Units planned for organization, according to the Governor, will include both combat and service groups. The first such unit will probably be organized in Seattle in the very near future and the possibility of organizing one in Vancouver will be investigated. The Governor stated that it had been found necessary "to have roughly a racial population of four thousand in a certain community to insure the successful organization and maintenance of a National Guard Unit."

Fleming R. Waller, president of the Honolulu, Hawaii, branch, the only branch outside the continental United States, was a visitor in the West Coast regional office in August. Mr. Waller, who is a native of Richmond, Virginia, was on his way home for a visit after two years' residence in Hawaii.

Mr. Waller's branch numbers about 200 members, made up of Negroes, Japanese, Chinese, Puerto Ricans, Hawaiians and Caucasions. Out of a population of 200,000 there are about 400 Negroes, he stated in an interview with Mr. Noah W. Griffin, regional coordinator, and Mrs. Ethel Ray Nance, office secretary.

Inasmuch as the NAACP branch in the islands does not have to deal with specific infractions of justice against minorities like restrictive covenants, FEPC and lynchings, the branch has largely followed a pattern which it calls a "declaration of principles."

Under this pattern Mr. Waller includes "(1) the seeking of further integration of races and wider distribution of publications by and about Negroes, such as the *Crisis*, *Opportunity*, *Ebony*, and Negro newspapers; (2) a program of socialization with all people; (3) a smothering of "loud-mouthed" Negroes who cancel mhatever good is done; (4) a vigilance over areas like government housing projects in order to watch and check future possible segregation of Negroes."

The branch in Honolulu, according to Mr. Waller, has advocated that Negroes tie in with all other groups and become part of the cosmopolitan pppulation rather than stay apart in self-segregation. A part of the program in the islands has dealt with complaints of Negroes in the Army and Navy. Several thousand Negroes in the armed forces are stationed in the islands with about one thousand at Scofield Barracks alone.

The Honolulu branch has been successful in getting some police dicharged in brutality cases involving civilians in housing projects. White people in the community had done nothing about these cases but when Negroes were included the branch took steps with authorities which were effective and they have been given credit by the community for their work in this field.

Despite the fact that some Negro elements in the islands feel there is no need or place for a NAACP program the work of the Honolulu branch has been widely acclaimed by Negroes as well as members of other minority groups.

WINNING TEAM *in Pasadena, Calif., membership drive. Each person pictured brought in 500 or more members. Seated (left to right): Mrs. Fay Lewis, Elbert White, captain; Mrs. Edna McNeil; standing: Mrs. Cecele Ruffin, Mrs. Angie Thomas, Dr. Edna Griffin, branch president; Mrs. Myrtle Haithom.*

Illinois: For the second time, Dr. J. B. Martin and officials of the Negro American and National Baseball Leagues have given the Chicago branch the privilege of making membership solicitations at the East-West annual baseball classic, played at Comiskey Park, Chicago.

Michigan: Annual convention of the Michigan State Conference of Branches was held September 27-28 at Flint. Guest speaker at the conference was T. V. Mangum, president of the North Carolina state conference.

The following are area directors in Michigan: Area I. Prince Drewry, president of the Mt. Clemens branch; Area II, Alvertus Allen, president Three Rivers branch; and Ladora Hunt, president of the Pontiac branch.

In August Edward M. Swann, executive secretary of the Detroit branch, wrote the commander of the Michigan National Guard a letter in protest against the segregated national guard system in Michigan. The branch has also asked the Detroit Amateur Baseball Federation for a statement of policy with regards to the acceptance of Negro players and teams.

New Jersey: Bleeker's Manor was scene of a tea given on August 10 by the Long Branch unit of the NAACP. Highlight of the afternoon was the awarding of prizes in the recent membership drive. Mrs. Geneva Marshall, chairman of the drive, was awarded a certificate of merit and a dresser set; Mrs. Lydia Hall, captain of the winning team, which brought in 530 members, received a certificate of merit and a Gotham wrist watch; J. P. Scott, who brought in 111 members, received a certificate of merit and a Bulova watch; and the following persons received a certificate of merit and a gold NAACP pin for having brought in 50 members or more: Mrs. Irene Morgan, Mrs. Ida Moore, Herbert Upshur, and Howard Taylor. The following received certificates of merit for having brought in 25 or more members: Mrs. Grace Francis, Mrs. Lucile Gaskin, Mrs. Ethel Puryear, and Edward Bolds.

Miss Laura Robinson received a certificate of merit for her outstanding work at the Long Branch senior high school. Jefferson Meekins received a certificate of merit for promoting interracial understanding at the same school.

Rev. Charles L. Tarter, president of the Paterson branch, presented facts regarding a case of police brutality involving a local officer and a teen-age Negro girl.

New York: Roberta E. Joseph of New York City sends in one of the first of the new loyalty memberships to the NAACP.

Ohio: Headed by Attorney Clayborne George, outstanding attorney and civic leader, the Cleveland branch has mapped plans for the largest bid it has ever made for members. The membership campaign structure is geared to solicit 12,000 members for the coming year. The branch has also initiated a week-long "register to vote drive," with a caravan to city hall.

"On the Beam" With Youth Councils

Texas: The ninth annual Youth Conference of the NAACP will convene in Houston, Texas, November 5-9, 1947. Delegates will meet to work out strategy to develop the theme "Build A Stronger Team."

The national planning and advisory committee to youth councils and college chapters will meet in Houston on November 4 and will submit its report and recommendations on the opening day of the conference.

Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary, NAACP, and editor of the *Crisis,* will deliver the keynote address on Wednesday, November 5. Thurgood Marshall, special counsel, NAACP, and George L. P. Weaver, executive director, National CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination, will be among the discussion leaders.

The conference will consider cooperative action against restrictive covenants; unfair practices in employment; discrimination in educational opportunities and facilities; and restrictions on the right to vote.

Florida NAACP Youth Councils: Approximately 35 youth delegates and senior advisors, representing 14 of Florida's 20 youth councils and college chapters, met at tht St. James Baptist church in Mims on August 29 to register for the third annual meeting of the Florida State Conference of NAACP youth councils and college chapters.

Regular afternoon session of the conference opened at 3:00 p.m. with Jocie Seigler, vice-president of the Mims council, presiding. Delegates and visitors were divided into three groups for the following seminar discussions: "Youth in Society," led by W. Van Daughtry, adjutant of American Legion Post No. 198-C; "Youth in The Economic World," led by Rev. R. H. Johnson, president of Good Neighbors, Inc.; and "Our Fight For The Ballot," led by Harry T. Moore, NAACP state secretary. Among the visitors presented to this session were Rev. C. S. Felder of Titusville and Rev. J. R. Thompson of Pompano. At the 8:00 p.m. meeting an inspiring address was delivered by Dave P. Johnson, an instructor in the Cocoa high school.

The regular business session opened at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, with Chester S. Satterwhite, Jr., state president, presiding. The delegates joined in a lively discussion of the topic: "How to Vitalize Our Youth Work." All seemed to agree that one of the best ways to maintain an active council is to keep the young people busy doing things worthwhile. The various delegates related how their councils have helped to conduct campaigns for registration of Negro voters, membership campaigns, school surveys, etc. Among those who rendered interesting reports relative to the activities of their local councils were Virginia McGreen of Orlando, Henry Finley of West Palm Beach. Freddie Coward of Panama City, Harvey Hill of Fruitland Park, Edgar Gibbons of Sarasota, Johnnie Bryant of Ft. Lauderdale, Agnes White of St. Petersburg, Albert Young of Mims, and Elder J. C. Lester of Live Oak. Rev. T. R. Griffin of Titusville praised the young people highly for the manner in which their business session was conducted.

The conference adopted strong resolutions calling for early enactment of anti-lynching, anti-poll tax, and FEPC legislation. Florida congressmen also were urged to support bills to provide federal aid for education and a liberal minimum wage law. It was voted to hold the fourth annual meeting in Orlando.

The conference closed with a big mass meeting Sunday afternoon, at which time the principal address was delivered by Miss O. B. McLin, English instructor at Gibbs high school and advisor for the St. Petersburg youth council. Miss McLin reminded her audience that for nearly forty years the NAACP has led the fight for justice and equal opportunities for Negro citizens, and she commended the young people for having connected themselves with such a militant organization. Henry Finley of West Palm Beach presided at the mass meeting.

Rev. W. E. Sloan installed the newly elected officers: Albert Young, Mims, president; George Nixon, Orlando, vice-president; Chester S. Satterwhite, Jr., Jacksonville, vice-president; Theresa Jones, Orlando, secretary; Leona Holmes, Live Oak, assistant secretary; Evangeline Moore, Mims, treasurer; Johnnie K. Bryant, Ft. Lauderdale, chaplain; Edgar Gibbous, Sarasota, reporter.

Scurlock

DETROIT BRANCH DELEGATES *attending the annual NAACP conference in Washington, D. C., in June.*

Book Reviews

OUR BAD VICTUALS

***Tomorrow's Food.* By James Rorty and N. Philip Norman, M.D., New York: Prentice-Hall, 1947. XIV+258pp. $3.50.**

Tomorrow's Food is the most important book that has appeared this year. Since we now realize that life, health, and even happiness depend to a large measure upon proper nutrition; and since such a great part of our income and time are spent on food, it would seem that a fundamental book on this subject would qualify as such.

The authors not only know their subject from the scientific side, but James Rorty is a well-known sociologist whose work has long appeared in such journals as *The Progressive* and *The New Leader*. The book is therefore integrated with an expert knowledge of history, economics, and politics. We thus get an overall view of national nutrition which starts with the soil and continues through from the farmer to the transporter, processor, distributor, retailer. housewife and "hospital."

Everyone ought to know by this time that there is something drastically wrong with American nutrition. One has but to look around and see the hordes of ugly, malformed people, or glance at the country's health statistics with degenerative diseases mounting steadily in the last 25 years; with one-third of our youth of military age rejected in the draft; or just look and see where this great, rich nation stands in point of health to other nations, to wonder what has happened to us. The Scandinavian countries, Australia, and New Zealand are all ahead of us in health. And sorry to relate, it is the Negro population which pulls us from seventh to twelfth place in national health.

The Negro, with so many cooks and farmers in the group, should have become aware of the problem before this. But there has been a serious time and information lag among Negroes on this vital subject. It is not that the young people are indifferent when the matter is brought before them. I have had the pleasure of talking to many southern college students and found them eager to learn. But what good is one talk in a life time? Nutrition is not scientifically taught in the schools and no journals or papers stress the subject. The colleges all serve white bread, refined sugar, packaged cereals and commercial sweets. It is impossible to buy, even if one wanted to, any natural fruit drinks, or even fruit, on the campus. Yet within a stone's throw the student can purchase artificial, degenerative soft drinks and candies which devour his health and vitality. The college youth who needs his strength for his long hours of study has instead the poorest diet in the country. Our youth, subsisting largely on devitalized calories which burn up his tissues, bloat his liver, decalcify his teeth and seriously over-burden his heart and putrefy his lungs, fights a losing battle because the bad health he is building will prevent him from fully utilizing the knowledge he gains.

The notion that nutrition is based on calories is one of the worst errors ever made by man. The human body cannot be compared to a furnace that must be stoked with quick burning fuel. A furnace does not have to repair or reproduce itself. Yet most of the books on nutrition, still studied in our colleges, measure food by its caloric value. Thus led astray, today, two-thirds of our calories are taken from devitalized sources. The white flour, sugar, rice and hydrogenated fats can all boast of high caloric content.

Why has the Negro suffered most from the present situation? Because living a more restricted life, he has less variety in his experience and is more likely to cling to outworn habits and accept without question highly advertised products which seem to be popular.

The Lesson of the Healthy Hunzas: In 1900, Dr. McCarrison was sent to look after the health of a tribe of people on the border of India and Afghanistan. His lengthy sojourn among these 6,000 extraordinary people has had a tremendous effect on the British. The doctor found, to his surprise, that the Hunzas never had ulcers, appendicitis, mucous colitis, dyspepsia or cancer. They never seemed tired, could walk with heavy loads for sixty miles and home again the same day, were wonderful dancers, superior soldiers, fine artisans and superb farmers. Yet they were surrounded by other tribes in poor health, with far greater resources than they. Their diet, in fact, was meager. Their daily fare consisted of grains, vegetables, fruit, and goat's milk and butter, and on feast days only, goat's meat. But the grains were whole and all the food was raised in terraced fields and fertilized with naural refuse from man, animal, and plant. It was a rigid tradition with them to utilize everything and return all they were not using to the soil. Their crops were almost immune to plant and animal parasites and diseases—as the people were.

Dr. McCarrison had the happy idea in the 20's of feeding rats on the Hunza diet and using other rats on other Asiatic diets as controls. The Hunza rats grew large and strong and had no diseases. The Madras and Bengal rats fed on polished rice, tapioca, pulses, vegetables, condiments, and a little milk, acquired every disease listed in the medical books, including goiter, heart disease, sinus, ulcers, cancer, anemia, enlarged glands, adenoids, and pneumonia. They were irritable, and vicious. Other rats fed on the typical British diet also turned out badly, even having their minds affected.

These experiments profoundly impressed Britons. When the war started and food rationing began, they were ready to make improvements in their diet. Not only did they outlaw white bread and make a natural loaf of wholewheat popular, but when we tried to send them the "enriched" flour of our own wartime blundering, they refused it, hungry as they were. They made many other far-reaching reforms in food processing. The most significant experiment was made by a group of country doctors in Cheshire. They decided to instruct the farmers of their district to utilize human refuse along with animal and vegetable in "compost" fertilizer. They also told the bakers how to grind and bake natural bread. They directed the dairyman and stockman how to feed their animals and dictated better ways of handling food to the retailers. The results? Britain came out of the worst war in history healthier than she had been since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Less mothers die now in childbirth, there is less infant mortality, and ten percent less miscarriages. (There is a direct connection between Vitamin E and reproduction.) The special Cheshire plan

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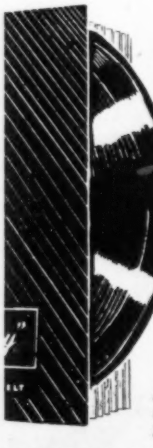

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went further and procured even more startling results by cutting down the sickness rate and breeding superior babies.

While this was going on in England, America was blandly supporting a fake "enriched" flour program which allowed the millers to extract eight natural minerals, all vital to our health, from our grains with expensive machinery; then put back four synthetic chemicals and call the phony staff of life "improved" bread! The poisonous stuff was fed to dogs in the experimental laboratory both in England and America and in six weeks the poor animals had fits. And though it was proved that these synthetic minerals could cause serious disturbance in animals, this fact was never published even in the American medical journals. It took the *New Leader*, a socialist organ, to mention it.

Any sincere health reform here would immediately clash with the big business processors, the soft drink interests, candy, flour, cereal, sugar, hard drink and synthetic vitamin manufacturers, and the magazines and radio programs they control. The only possible way out of this economic cannibalism is through the consumer cooperative

JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER.

LYRIST AND DRAMATURGIST

***On These I Stand*. By Countee Cullen. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1947. X+197pp. $2.50.**

***Powerful Long Ladder*. By Owen Dodson. New York: Farrar, Straus and Co., Inc., 1946. 103pp. $2.50.**

Within the last several months two volumes of poetry by Negro writers have been published and have recieved considerable attention in various magazines and papers. In general the commentary has been favorable, and yet there runs through most of it a note of reservation, almost of scepticism, as to the worth of these two volumes. It is perhaps unfortunate that two of the most promising young Negro writers should within a period of six months or so meet with such similar criticism; and it is certainly unfortunate that Countee Cullen no longer lives to justify the promise of producing a substantial body of good poetry as does Owen Dodson, his younger contemporary.

All but a few of the poems in Cullen's *On These I Stand* are taken from his earlier published volumes and are therefore familiar to those interestd in the Negro's contribution to American art and literature. The author's intention, strangely prophetic of the closing of his career, is to bring together those poems which he regards as his most representative work. One can hardly quarrel with his selection. His subjects cover a wide range of his most lyrically beautiful, most meditative, and most poignantly responsive reactions to personal and group life, and these are frequently interfused with a deeply religious sense. It is therefore remarkable that the critic in the *New York Times* comes out with the conclusion that in the main these poems have little more to offer than a sophomoric facility with words.

It has long been acknowledged by careful students of Cullen that his genius (or talent if one prefers) was mainly lyrical; and one must not forget in this connection that Keats and Shelley influenced his style greatly. It is nevertheless true that such poems as "Heritage," "Yet Do I Marvel," "Black Magdalens," "Scottsboro, Too, Is Worth Its Songs." and "The Ballad of the Brown Girl," to name but a few, are considerably more than facile verbiage. In these poems and a good many more Cullen handled with finished lyricism and admirable integrity significant aspects of his own and his people's strivings with life.

THE LATE COUNTEE CULLEN, *author of "On These I Stand" reviewed at left.*

Alexander King

DRAMATURGIST OWEN DODSON, *author of "Powerful Long Ladder" reviewed at left.*

Owen Dodson's *Powerful Long Ladder* leaves no such impresson of at least a strong talent pretty well realized as does Cullen's book. This is Dodson's first published book of poems, and perhaps in time this poet will arrive at a greater consistency. This is not to say that many of the poems are really poor. It means, rather, that the dramatic, the impressionistic, the symbolic, the strictly lyrical elements are brought together in such fashion as to confuse. The best pieces in the book, on the whole, are the dramatic sketches; the worst, those having to do with love. A glance at "Drunken Lover," "Ignore Those Seals," and "All This Review" will illustrate the point. In total impression, in experimental verse form, or in emotional strength there is confusion.

Dodson's talents seem to lie mainly in the dramatic motif. Here he seems at home and therefore frequently turns off a telling phrase so realistic and satirical as to make even a minor character come alive. This is seen not only in his choruses from *Divine Comedy* but also in the poems to Pearl Primus and her dancers and "Someday We're Gonna Tear These Pillars Down," all three of which are essentially dramatic.

Here, then, are two books by two Negro poets whose talents merit serious consideration, the one largely lyrical the other dramatic. In neither case has there been fulfillment of early promise; in both there has been sufficent work on which to base high expectations. It is to be hoped that Owen Dodson will take advantage of his great talent and will shortly produce a book more nearly representative of his powers.

ARTHUR E. BURKE.

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Curtains Going Up

(Continued from page 307)

such promising young actors and actresses as Jacqueline Levy, Ann Flagg, Geri Prillerman Bryan, and Roman Henderson.

It is interesting to look behind the scenes into the activities of some theatrical personalities who are not opening with these new "curtains." Todd Duncan is on a European tour, having just appeared in the Edinburgh Festival as the only American there. Katherine Dunham, for months the toast of Mexico, is all signed for a Hollywood picture. Pearl Primus has opened a new school, but will nevertheless tour this season, including in her repertory a new and highly creative rendition of James Weldon Johnson's "Go Down Death." Lawrence Winters, who has just completed a tour of Central America and Jamaica, will be presented in solo recitals in the United States as an S. Hurok attraction.

Juvenile Stars

Two interesting juvenile stars are worth mentioning. Helen Ferguson (late of *Street Scene)* is studying hard and hoping that the show she made such a hit with in summer theatre will come to New York. She received special notices for singing a song called "Heaven" in a play entitled *The Shape of Things.* Richard Williams (late of *On Whitman Avenue)* expects to film his last year's play and a Negro version of *Boy's Town.*

As for cinema, Herald Pictures, which produced *Boy, What a Girl* (starring Milton Wood and Sybil Lewis) last fall, and *Sepia Cinderella* during the winter, is now preparing to offer *Miracle in Harlem.* Shooting on this moving picture was done at Filmcraft Studios, Bronx, New York. The play stars Sheila Guyse, with Creighton Thompson, William Greaves (of *Finian's Rainbow*), and Jack Carter in supporting roles. Juanita Hall and her choir appear in several numbers.

When curtains go up this year, they go up in the glow of a great victory. The theatre's conscience has been aroused. Actors' Equity—stirred by a searching report by Cornelia Otis Skinner—voted months ago to refuse to play the National Theatre in Washington, D.C., on and After August 1, 1948, until it purged itself of discrimination. Recently, it demanded a clause to that effect in its contracts with the League of New York Theatres; after much discussion, such a clause was accepted.

This victory highlights the work of the Committee on Racial Democracy, which has led a courageous fight against impossible odds. The Committee is now about to attack similar blights in other cities. Audiences and the general public will follow actors and producers in feeling the spread of this contagious enthusiasm for a democracy that works on both sides of the footlights. The theatrical professions have truly set an example for all democratic movements. It is hoped that this example will be felt not only in America but through American influences in other countries—Argentina, for example, where (according to *The Billboard)* Negro entertainers are not permitted to enter.

No year has held more electrical promises behind spanking "new curtains." But now that the theatre has become in America more than a place of entertainment, every curtain that rises this year will carry in its rise the breathless hopes of a democratic people.

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Freeing of India

(Continued from page 304)

economic pressure will compel it to be one with the great sub-continent. So too the princely states will resist but succumb.

It is true that all will not go well with India. It is a difficult—a herculean task which this new nation undertakes. First of all, there are social problems; the education of a country which is vastly ignorant and needs all sorts of education; there is the health problem among a people decimmated by tropical disease, mal-nutrition and lack of clothing and shelter.

There is above all the problem of poverty; there is going to be increasingly a fierce struggle between the great Indian capitalists representing the tuition and the capital of Europe, and the mass of workers who have been ground down to the last degree of poverty and ill-health.

All of that drama of the rights of labor, which has been fought out in Europe and America, must be begun and struggled through in India. Then of course there is the problem of religion; age-old beliefs and superstitions, exacerbated by the Jinnah political program of throwing two great religions into difficult and bitter political competition. Nothing but an India-wide crusade against religious dogma will win here in the end. It must and will be undertaken.

Finally there is the whole problem of political power: the overall power of the state, the division of powers among the provinces; the question of votes and elections, and the various law-making bodies; all this portends for India a terrible and long struggle. But there is in this new land, certain great advantages. They have a spiritual faith; a belief in the inner value of the human being as differing from and transcending the matter of wealth and material things. Indian philosophy and religion has influenced the world in this respect in the past; it will in the future. It may become dominent even over Europe, which measures everything in terms of profit.

American Negroes, particularly, have every reason to hail the new and free India. It is a freedom and autonomy of colored folk; it ends the day in a whole continent, when the white man by reason of the color of his skin, can lord it over colored people; when he can bring his segregation and his cheap habits of superiority, as shown by exclusive clubs, "jim-crow" cars and salaams and the other paraphernalia of disgraceful human degradation. The sun of the colored man has arisen in Asia as it will yet rise in Africa and America and the West Indies.

Dream's End

(Continued from page 300)

that mean the difference between bad crops and good. For example, he remembered to plant his vegetable seeds in the hills between the furrows so that the roots would be assured of plenty of moisture and deep soil. Time proved he had what gardeners call a "green thumb," and his vegetables, berries and fruit grew well, ripened early, and found a ready market. His crops include tomatoes, corn, peas, and this summer he harvested more than 600 pounds of wax beans and more than 1800 pounds of potatoes.

In the meantime, the family grew larger. Julia was born soon after Mrs. Leonard reached Seattle, and Richard was born early this spring. There was plenty to eat, but not much cash for extras, so Mrs. Leonard, Connie, and Dolores do spare-time jobs of housework and store clerking for money with which to develop the farm. The goal now is a cultivator so that the entire seven acres, too much land for one man to work by hand, might be placed under seed.

The summer of 1947 has seen the Leonards well on the way toward success, a dream achieved. Leonard's biggest single aid was the fact that he was able to obtain a stall in Seattle's famed Public Market where farmers from many miles around come with their fresh produce to sell to eager buyers. Every Thursday and Friday find the Leonard family picking berries and vegetables, for Saturday is the big day at the market, the day that finds Mrs. Leonard and Connie proudly displaying and selling their produce.

More than anything else, that stall in the Public Market is a symbol of Robert Leonard's dream-come-true, for it places him on equal footing with surrounding farmers, successful and competing farmers. The crops he is wresting from a rundown farm through the endless labor of himself and his family are proof of the man, the sign of his courage in making a dream come true in a competitive world, in a world where all he asked was the opportunity to work hard.

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Of The Crisis, published monthly at New York, for October 1, 1947, State of New York, County of New York.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared James W. Ivy, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Managing Editor of The Crisis and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, The Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., 20 West 40th St.; Editor, Roy Wilkins, 20 West 40th St.; Managing Editor, James W. Ivy, 20 West 40th St.; Business Manager, Roy Wilkins, 20 West 40th St.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) The Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., 20 West 40th St.; Dr. Louis T. Wright, President; 20 West 40th St.; Mrs. E. R. Alexander, Treasurer, 20 West 40th St. All stock owned by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also, in cases where the stockholders or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and condition under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is. (This information is required from daily publications only.)

JAMES W. IVY.
Managing Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of September, 1947.

(SEAL) FRANKLIN HALL WILLIAMS.
(My commission expires January 21, 1949.)

LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many colored lawyers in this country is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorney outside their home towns. THE CRISIS maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizen rights.

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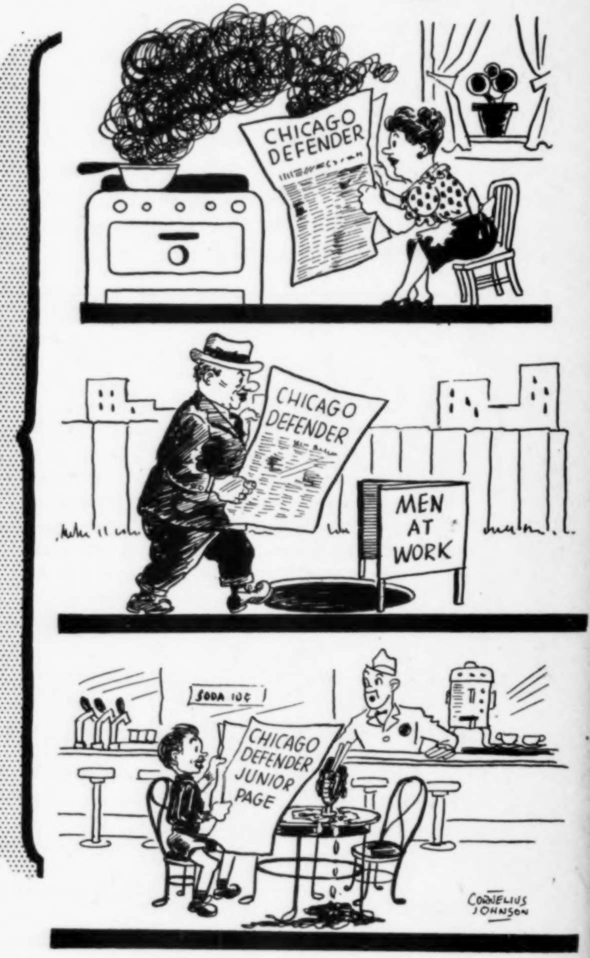
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